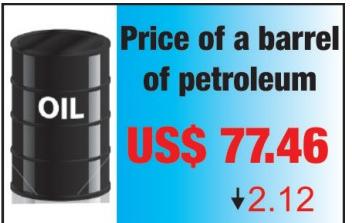


On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Website: www.arubatoday.com

Friday, November 20, 2009



INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

Obama says U.S., allies discussing Iran sanctions



CHARLES HUTZLER,
Associated Press Writer
SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Showing impatience with Iranian foot-dragging, President Barack Obama said Thursday that the U.S. and its allies are discussing possible new penalties against Iran for defying international attempts to halt its contested nuclear program.

*See International News
on page B7*

SPORTS NEWS

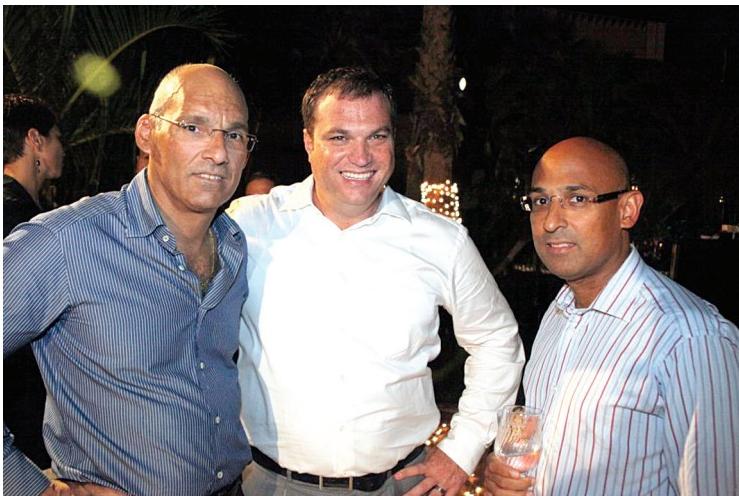
Giants' Lincecum wins second consecutive Cy Young



JAY COHEN,
AP Sports Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — San Francisco Giants ace Tim Lincecum won the National League Cy Young Award on Thursday for the second consecutive season to become the first repeat winner since Randy Johnson seven years ago.

*See Sports Today on
page B10*

The new Lincoln MKS 2010 has arrived



ORANJESTAD — After a much created buzz R. E. Yrausquin & Sons the official ford motors dealers on the Island has unveiled the new Lincoln MKS 2010 to all press members and special guests. This new ECO friendly luxury sedan boosts a V-6 Eco boost twin-turbo charge of 3.5-liter. With a brand new sleek and chic design this new eco friendly sedan really promises to be one of the must have of the season. With a very beautiful interior consisting of fine leather, wood combined with metal.



new
ANGUS
THIRD POUNDERS*
M
*Weight before cooking at least 5.33 oz. (151.1 gms). I'm lovin' it

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Serving the most amazing platters at local prices

Moby Dick's introduces outside terrace

PASEO HERENCIA – For the most amazing Caribbean and South American flavors, you definitely have to go to Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant and Caribbean terrace for the perfect evening.



GIVE THANKS FOR EACH OTHER, AND COMPLIMENTS TO THE CHEF.

\$146.00

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Dinner for 4-6 People

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NOVEMBER 26, 2009, 10:00 A.M. — 2:00 P.M.

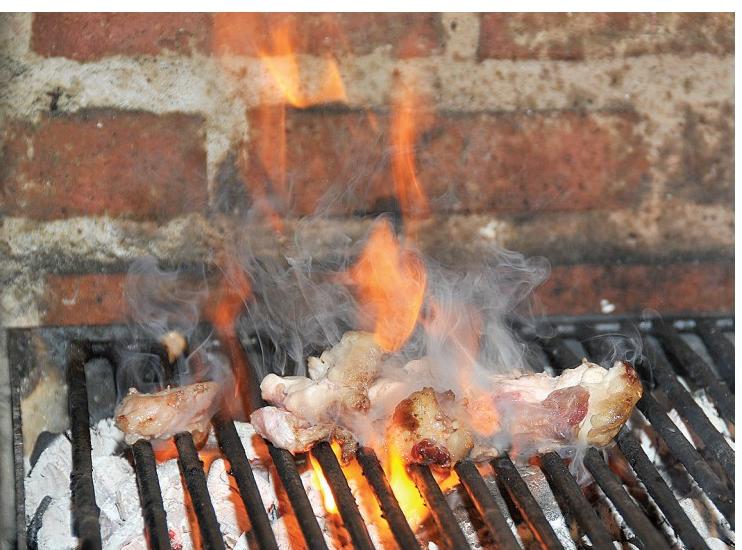
Put Hyatt on the menu this Thanksgiving with our Holiday Turkey To Go Special.
Enjoy a full Thanksgiving dinner with friends and family...Hyatt Style.

Meal includes:

- Roasted Corn and Pepper Chowder
- 10-12 lb Sage Roasted Turkey
- 6 lb Apricot-Mustard Glazed Ham
- Traditional Herbed Stuffing
- Hand Whipped Home Style Potatoes
- Maple Roasted Sweet Yams
- Brussel Sprouts and Root Vegetables
- Gilet Gravy
- Cranberry Pecan Chutney
- Rolls and Butter
- Turtle Pumpkin Pie



Dinner prices valid November 26th, 2009 at Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort & Casino. Advanced Reservations are recommended by calling 523-4574. Available for pick up between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; \$146.00 per meal, plus sales tax, serving 4 - 6 people. Complete reheating instructions are included with your order. Convenient Drive by pickup at the Hyatt on Thanksgiving Day! Other restrictions may apply, call for details. Hyatt reserves the right to alter or withdraw this program at any time without notice. HYATT, Hyatt Hotels & Resorts® and Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort & Casino® designs and related marks are trademarks of Hyatt Corporation ©2009 Hyatt Corporation. All rights reserved.



Outside on the new terrace, the menu is loaded with tender tastes from the land while inside boasting fabulous fish dishes including Oysters on the Half Shell, Lobster, and King Crab Legs. Besides having the most incredible cocktails, Moby Dick's is the only place on the island to savor the legendary Bloody Oyster - the ultimate delicacy only known by deep sea

connoisseurs who take pleasure in its delight on Sunday mornings. No need to wait for Sunday for this deep sea concoction of Fresh Oysters, Cooked Shrimp, Cold Vodka, Tomato Juice, Tabasco, Lime Juice, Black Pepper and Celery.

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Double celebration at the Divi Phoenix



PALM BEACH – Margaret Rose, better known as Nina, is the island's newest Ambassador of Goodwill. Nina, from the Boston area, was bestowed the honor by a government representative in return for her friendship and loyalty to the people and this island. Nina has been a repeat visitor for 21 years buying her first timeshare condo at the fondly remembered Harbourtown, now Renaissance Ocean Suites. She is currently a

popular and appreciated member of Divi resorts and enjoys her tropical vacation in the company of local friends, many of them resort employees. John & Janet Kenny have been awarded a certificate of distinction for their uninterrupted decade of repeat vacations on the island, also from the Boston area. They first bought into the Divi Phoenix tower more than ten years ago and have been happy since then, on the beach,

at the pool, dining at the Sunset Bistro toes in the sand, "what's there not to love," they ask.

Pictured here John and Janet Kenny, with Margaret "Nina" Rose and resort staffers with Mandy Lopez, an official with the Aruba Tourism Authority who presented both certificates on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, and Lilian Maduro, with guest services at the Divi Phoenix.

Special Month of November!

Appetizer

- Fish Soup
- Onion Soup
- Conch Fritters
- Escargot
- Salad

Entrée

- Fresh Catch of the Day prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.
- Jumbo Shrimp from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.
- Filet Mignon 8 oz. US Tenderloin
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Dessert

- Chocolate or Banana Cake
- Ice Cream
- Coffee / Tea

3-course dinner \$24 per person

* This special cannot be used with any other promotions, vouchers or certificates.

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De Palm Tours at the vanguard of the environment



ORANJESTAD -- The recent 8th annual national coastal cleanup mobilized 27 staff and family members of De Palm Tours who volunteered to participate in the effort. The company also donated the use of its Land Rovers as well as the use of 6 buses and their drivers, assigned to pick up dozens of volunteer school children and deliver them to their designated beach clean up areas.

Annie Leest, of De Palm Tours N.V., reports the De Palm Tours Staff and Family group met at 8 a.m. at the De Palm Head Office and traveled to Wari Uri beach on the De Palm Land Rovers. At the beach site, located on the North Coast of Aruba they met up with significant quantities of washed up trash, including blue Pepsi bottle caps from Venezuela, and five oversize bags of garbage buried in the sand, plastic debris and assorted waste. Over 20 school groups and various private and volunteer organizations received transportation by the De Palm Tour busses. The volunteers pitched in enthusiastically, as they felt they were making a difference in helping the environment, which is a great way of handing the island's environmental legacy to the next generation, Annie remarks.

The De Palm Crew finished up at Noon and on the return to the De Palm Tours Head Office the cleaners were treated to well-deserved pizza and watermelon, a treat from the Board of De Palm Tours, as a reward for working hard for their island, on their day off.

In her closing notes, the chairperson of the national clean up committee stated that the 8th national coastal cleanup went very smoothly, and was a huge success, with over 1,000 participants scouring the coasts and the beaches, collecting 6 containers of refuse, besides many bags which Aruba's cleaning service Serlimar picked up the following day.

The logo for Hyatt Regency Aruba, featuring the word "HYATT" in large, bold, serif capital letters at the top, "REGENCY" in smaller capital letters below it, and "ARUBA" in a larger serif font. A small trademark symbol (TM) is located to the right of "ARUBA". Below the main text, the words "A HYATT RESORT AND CASINO" are written in a smaller, sans-serif font.

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The hottest game on the Island

NO LIMITS Texas Hold'em

Blinds \$2 - \$5 | Minimum Buy-In: \$100

Poker Room opening hours: 8:30pm - 4:00am

Registration at the Players Advantage Club booth starting at 12 noon

A decorative graphic featuring four stylized, metallic playing card suits arranged horizontally. From left to right: a heart, a diamond, a club, and a spade. Each suit is highly reflective, with bright highlights and a dark, polished surface. They are set against a dark, slightly blurred background.

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For more info please call: 586-1234, ext.4583
www.hyattcasinoaruba.com

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"Mana" sung by our own Marisela

Señor Frogs to rock Downtown with live tribute



ORANJESTAD – After a group of friends from Guadalajara, Mexico were meeting up to jam and play the music of different bands they admired, they decided in 1981 to start off with their own musical band. At first the band was called "The Green Hat Spice", then changed the name to "Green Hat". Still not completely satisfied with the name given to their band, they went to their Latin roots and changed their name to "Sombrero Verde". After the two first albums failed to sell well, they decided to re-invent once more in 1987 under the name "Mana". Mana has made history in the Latin American community with almost 20 million records sold around the world, 8 albums and working on number 9, which will be released in 2010 with a world tour. It is for this reason



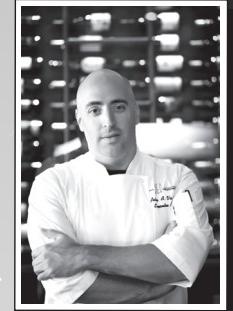
that Señor Frogs, known as the Mexican place to be, will host this tribute to Mana sung live by the singer Marisela. Once more Polar Beer in collaboration with

Jose Cuervo Tequila and Señor Frogs make this tribute concert possible. Doors will be open at Señor Frogs this Saturday from 9 p.m. on the 21st of November.



Come and experience L.G. Smith's
Sizzlin' Steakhouse Menu

inspired by Chef Peter Vauthy, co-owner of RED the Steakhouse in Miami Beach, Florida and Cleveland, Ohio.
October 16th - November 30th
Downtown, next to Crystal Casino
Phone: 523-6195, Open daily from 5:30 – 11:00 p.m.



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4 course menu
only \$ 23.-

Appetizer: Mustardsoup or fishsoup or tomatosoup

Middle course: Kebab pincho served with tzatziki

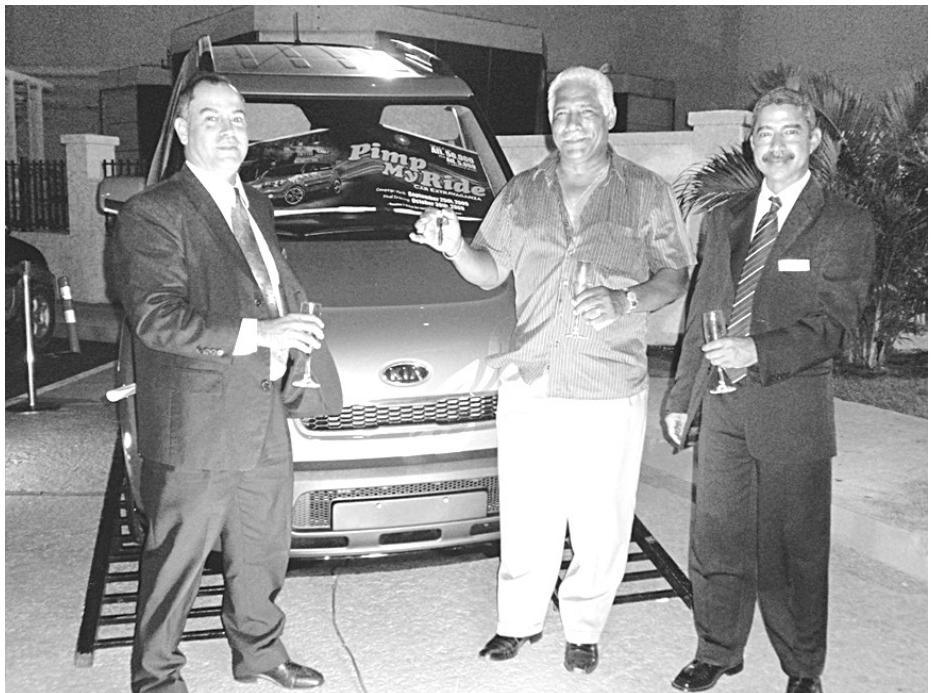
*Maincourse: Fishstew or Tenderloin pincho on spicy vegetables
or Mexican chickenplatter*

Dessert: Brownie with icecream or fruitsorbet with ice cream

Location: Perle d'Or - For reservation call: 5877710 / 5932660

Super Cool Car Promotion, Bingo Hot Shot & Isi Sports Contest

Stellaris Casino Proudly Announces October's Lucky Winners



PALM BEACH – Recently, Marriott's Stellaris Casino closed the month of October with many satisfied casino guests.

The casino ended the Super Cool Car Give-away promotion on October 30th. The casino allured a large crowd of anxious guests waiting to hear who would be the lucky winner of a brand new KIA Soul car valued over Afl. 50,000.00. At 11:00 PM it was time to announce the winner. Loyal local casino guest Mr. Eric Croes' name was called out of all the raffles in the big tombola. Casino Marketing Manager Adolf Eron and Casino Shift Manager Rouel Starke had the honors to hand over the key of Mr. Croes' brand new KIA Soul.

Throughout the evening other guests were hand picked from the tombola for other great cash prizes. Amidst these lucky guests were Shamin Schaap, Alexandra Polyzos, Isabella Sapuana and Candida Lamp who received Afl. 250.00 each. Winners of Afl. 500.00 were Janet Falcone, Alexandra Polyzos, Aura Martinus and Geeta Ramdas-Jagias. Both Altagracia Maduro and Marisa Tromp were the lucky winners receiving Afl. 1,000.00 each. During the weekend bingo events, Aruba's largest casino announced the Bingo Hot Shot of the month.

Stellaris management picked Mrs. Marion Tromp – Antersijn's name from the raffle drum and crowned her as the Bingo Hot Shot of October. This entitled her to \$500 in cash, a dinner for two at Marriott's Champions Sports Bar & Restaurant and two free bingo cards for the month of November.

Another lucky winner was announced the same weekend as winner of the international ISI Sports Contest. Local customer Mr. Lakie Paul Richards placed his bet on the sport machines, where he made chance to win \$500. This promotion is an ongoing promotion worldwide, where everyone can participate to predict the winners of the sports games and win \$500. Internationally, locals can participate for free, while tourists pay \$1 to place a bet once. Every week, a winner is announced. After placing the bets for his favorite teams, Mr. Richards awaited to hear from the ISI Sports Kiosk he was the only international winner of that week.

Stellaris Casino new campaign "Take the Plane to Spain" started on November 4th. Guests have a chance to win a trip for two to Spain valued at Afl. 10,000.00 plus an additional Afl. 1,750.00 pocket money. This trip entitles you to stay 3

nights in Madrid and 3 nights in Barcelona. To participate in this promotion, guests have to earn 20 points for each free raffle ticket. This can be done by playing the many coinless slot machines in the Stellaris Casino.

The final drawing for this amazing promotion is on December

4th, 2009. More information on Aruba's largest casino and events can be found on www.stellariscasino.com.

The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms – the most spacious on the island – each with large, private balconies overlooking the

sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions.

Friday, from 8:30 at

Casa Tua
Barcelona
Paella - Tapas - Pizzas

Live Flamenco
and Rumba Gitana with

ANGELA CROES

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www.casatuaaruba.com

Unique Complimentary Gift From MCVI Sales Team

Artist Elisa Lejuez Signs Lithographs in Marriott's Tradewinds Club



PALM BEACH – On November 18 and 19 renowned local artist Elisa Lejuez signed lithographs of her artworks in Marriott's upscale hotel within a hotel, Tradewinds Club. Lejuez's art is a complimentary gift exclusively for Tradewinds Club guests. Two additional artworks in a unique series of three lithographs, can be obtained for free when taking a preview tour of Marriott Aruba's Surf Club villa and purchasing a villa. The local art gifts are donated by the Marriott Vacation Club Sales team.

"We wanted to do something different for a unique group of guests staying on Tradewinds Club. It is a luxury hotel within the hotel and guests of Tradewinds Club have access to upscale amenities and privileges. We thought a lithograph of Elisa Lejuez would be a matching gift for Tradewinds guests. And we are promoting and supporting local art at the same time" says Bettina Gonzalez, Project Director of the Marriott Vacation Club (MCVI) Sales Team of the unique cooperation with the successful artist.

To launch the 'free art gift' campaign of MCVI Gonzalez

overlooking the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, renewed free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. The hotel's newest and most upscale amenity is Tradewinds Club, located on the top floor of the Resort.

Marriott and Renaissance Caribbean & Mexico Resorts is comprised of ten resorts in seven of the top tropical destinations in the Caribbean and Mexico – Aruba, Cancun, Curaçao, Grand Cayman, Puerto Vallarta, St. Kitts and St. Thomas.



invited local artist Lejuez to be present in the Tradewinds Club and hand out the artworks herself. As an added value, Lejuez signed her lithographs in the Tradewinds Lounge.

"I was pleasantly surprised that the MCVI selected my artwork as the free give away for Tradewinds guests. The three lithographs they selected are based on a collection of paintings that I created especially for Marriott. I truly hope these special Marriott guests will appreciate my art. It is a unique souvenir from a Aruba to take home for sure", states Lejuez.

The first lithograph in a series of three is a complimentary gift for all guests that booked their stay on Tradewinds Club. Upon signing up for a preview tour, these guests are entitled to receive the second complimentary artwork. The third artwork in this limited edition will be given out once Tradewinds guests decide to purchase their own villa at Marriott's Aruba Surf Club.

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 fully renovated guestrooms – the most spacious on the island – each with large, private balconies

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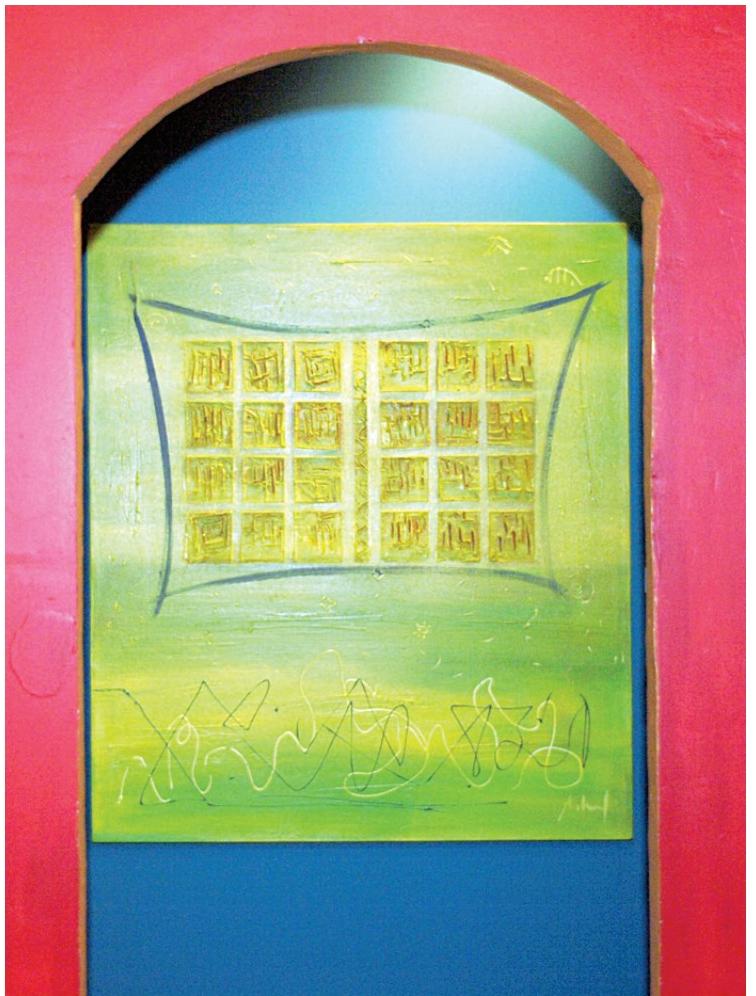
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We try harder.

New art gallery “Frameworks” debuts with



ORANJESTAD - Popular island artist Grace Ashruf, originally from Suriname, always demonstrates in her work a masterful eye for the colors of the tropics, which he deploys innovatively. On Wednesday, November 18, her 4th solo exposition in Aruba, “Treasures” opened in the stunning surroundings of the new gallery that is the Frameworks shop.

Owned by Jeanne Gauthier, Frameworks is run by her nephew, Cydric Oduber, certified by the Framing Training Institute of South Florida, FTISF, he and his colleague Mario Luijx recognize that the proper mat and frame is also an important aspect of art.

Grace's oversized canvases for this show are unframed, and reflect a new direction in her

art, which usually internalizes her surroundings and produce a very personal vision. This time, her works are decidedly abstract and reach back to symbols from ancient island culture for her inspiration. Keeping the development of communication interpreted by various viewpoints, she has developed a personal scribbling that is incorporated into almost all the paintings, thus “to realize and draw attention to what human hands and minds were capable of in the past, and can still create in or ongoing digital world.”

Grace feels that formal art training need be left behind to truly express herself; “I paint as if the thin line between my life and my art is erased,” she comments, “I will never give up trying!...Why did ancient people paint on stone walls?...Because thinking and then acting on those thoughts had become part of being

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EVERY DAY

NOVEMBER 7TH - 30TH

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DECEMBER 1ST



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Alhambra CASINO ARUBA
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Earn Entries beginning October 27th!

Get One FREE entry daily and receive additional entries for every 150 slot points earned per day for your chance to win \$1,000 in Free Slot Play every night at 11:00pm November 7th – 30th and a minimum \$2,500 Grand Prize December 1st.

*Must be a Players Club member. Must be present to win. All prizes will be paid in Instant Credit. Entry tickets must be printed by 10:00pm and in the drawing barrel by 10:15pm to be eligible for that day's drawing. Drawing drum will be emptied nightly and all tickets will be placed into the grand prize drawing drum. If no winner is present, that day's prize will be added to grand prize drawing on December 1st. See Players Club for complete details.

“Treasure” by noted artist Grace Ashruf



human.”

The impressive collection was well received on opening night, and Frameworks reports that 20 of the 30 works on display have already been sold. 10% of the revenues garnered from this exposition have been earmarked for the Foundation Kinderhuis Imeldahof.

Frameworks also features an impressive collection of artwork from around the world;

the new gallery is beautifully and dramatically outfitted, and most definitely worth a visit. Located directly behind the Kong Hing and Super Food Markets on the western outskirts of Oranjestad, they are open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM until noon and from 1:00 to 5:00 PM and on Saturdays from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM. The Grace Ashruf exposition will continue until December 16.



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THE COOLEST PLACE TO BE IS BUGALOE! Fun and happiness at popular beach bar

PALM BEACH - There is only one Bugaloe on Aruba: it is the hottest place to be cool and the coolest place to be hot.

Friends and fun are the main ingredients at the beach bar, but great food, drinks and music get a good second place. The sunsets, the breeze and the turquoise ocean are right at the top as well, of course.



People from all over the world get together at Bugaloe: they have a few drinks, a bite to eat, they dance and sway and make new friends. If you have gotten curious here and now, check out the website www.bugaloe.com and you will see at one glance what we are talking about. No words will be needed anymore. Surf to the website for the Bugaloe Event Calendar or leave a note in the Guestbook.

Bugaloe is located at De Palm Pier in Palm Beach between RIU Palace and Radisson Resort.

Bugaloe's daily Happy Hours are considered the starting signal for an evening of partying on the island. Locals mingle with visitors and raise their glasses. When you get hungry, order a scrumptious burger, a gourmet pizza, tasty wings or a salad and party on.



The night is young, the world is going crazy and you are right in the middle of a super happening. What's not to like? Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. On Sunday there will always be a top act by Tsunami, Robert Jeand'or, Abstract Dawn or Marisela & Aquarius. These musical talents draw the crowds. For more information go to www.bugaloe.com.

LIVE MUSIC @ BUGALOE

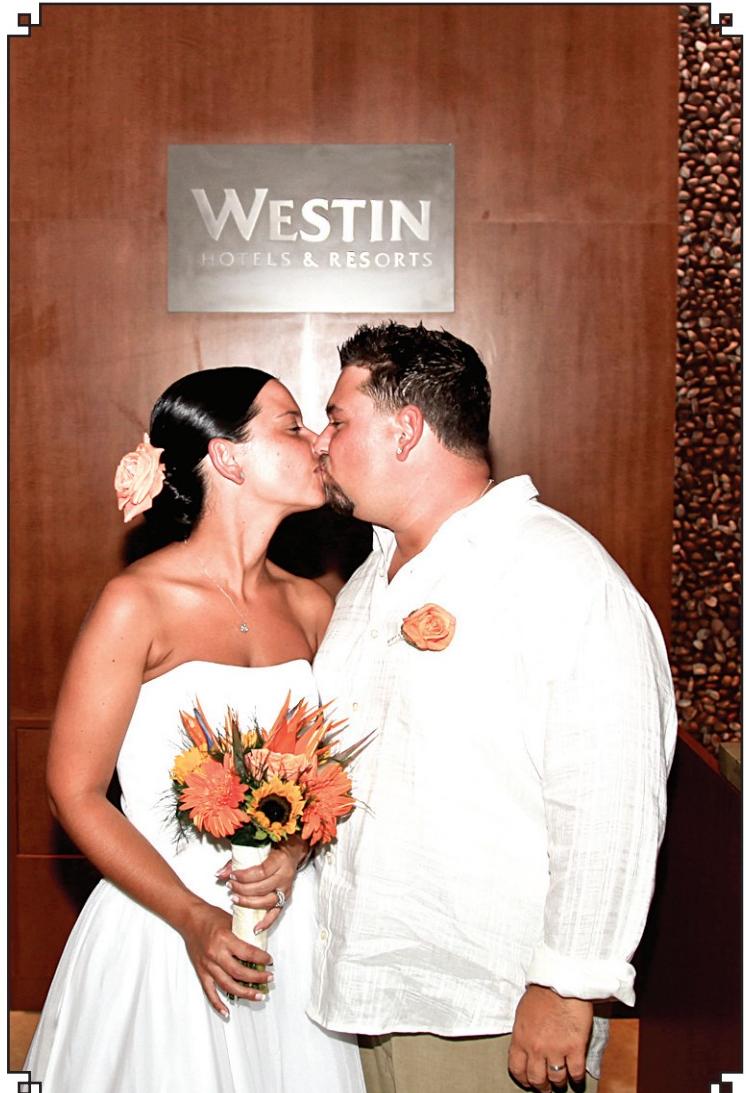
Tuesday 6-9pm: JOYRIDE

Wednesday 7-11pm: PM Band

Friday 6-10pm: PM Band

Sunday 6-10pm: Tsunami, Robert Jeand'or, Abstract Dawn or Marisela & Aquarius

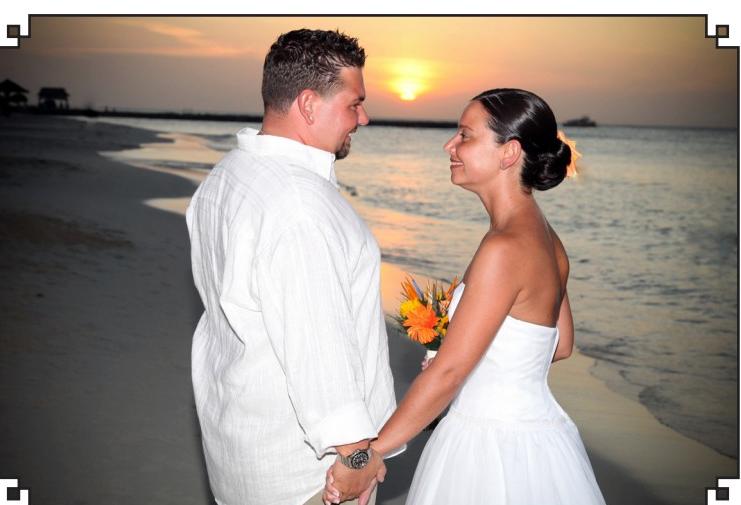
Wonderful Westin wedding on Palm Beach



PALM BEACH – Katie Grossi and Ryan Billingsley were living the dream last week when they said “I do” on the gorgeous white sands of Palm Beach. Coordinated by the special events and wedding team at The Westin Resort, Aruba, the sunset ceremony was absolutely picture perfect, followed by a champagne beach reception.

A group of more than 50 family and friends, who traveled to the island from the Boston area, were then ushered to the resort’s Starwood Gallery, which features dynamic local artists’ work, for a dinner reception and dancing.

The bride was given away by her mother, Maureen Grossi, and the bride’s sister Kristina was the maid of honor, with best men



duties going to the brother of the groom, Adam Billingsley. to grand ballroom galas—to personally fit each client’s desires.

The Westin Resort, Aruba is an island leader in hosting weddings and special events, with an experienced staff dedicated to tailoring each and every event—from small intimate affairs

Photos by Angela Munzenhofer

Bella Aruba Photography

World AIDS Day calendar launched

~ Marlin calls for community support ~

PHILIPSBURG--The World AIDS Day calendar of activities was launched on Wednesday with the Programme Management Team (PMT) presenting copies to the various commissioners and their representatives.

Leader of Government Commissioner William Marlin urged the community to support the activities and the fundraising efforts. He said combating AIDS was not just a government issue, but a community issue. He said AIDS had been a taboo subject in the past and it was good to continue raising the level of awareness.

Focussing on this year's theme "Universal access and human rights," PMT representative Myra Sprott said access to medication was a reality in St. Maarten, but noted that the community had to ensure that this did not change. She said too that the human rights of patients had always been protected in St. Maarten. She said the Netherlands was signatory to human rights treaties to this effect that also covered St. Maarten.

"As we forge ahead to Country St. Maarten we have the responsibility to guarantee our community that their human rights will be protected and that universal access or access to care and treatment will continue for all who may need it," she said.

The calendar of activities began with yesterday's launching and continues with a presentation of the findings of the HIV/AIDS Survey by the Education Workgroup in Dr. A.C. Wathey Legislative Hall on November 25 at 11:00am. There will be a party at Soggy Dollar Bar on November 28 from 11:00pm.

Three activities are scheduled for November 29: a radiothon at Scotiabank in Philipsburg from 11:00am to 4:00pm; a concert with local artistes at the Cultural Centre in French St. Martin and a basketball competition at L.B. Scott Sports Auditorium from 11:00am to 4:00pm.

The official World AIDS Day ceremony will be held in Dr. A.C. Wathey Legislative Hall on December 1 at 9:00am. Also scheduled for December 1 are a Sunrise Rotary Club Breakfast at Lekkerbek at 7:30am; the presentation of a donation from Sister Borgia School to Windward Islands Bank for the St. Maarten AIDS Foundation; and an awareness walk organised by NAGICO Insurances from 4:30pm.

The HIV/AIDS Programme Management Team will launch its Website in Dr. A.C. Wathey Legislative Hall at 11:00am on December 3. The final HIV[E] Education workshop will be held at Carl's Conference Facilities December 3-5 from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

The Amazon Retreat II will take place at 6:30pm on December 4 and the DJ Blaze [Red] Party at Secret Night Club at 10:00pm.

The events will wrap up with a graduation of health care workers at the Belair Community Centre at 11:00am on December 6.

First BTA permits presented

~ BTA is no trap, officials stress ~

PHILIPSBURG--Officials watched two long-time immigrant workers sign their temporary residence permits Wednesday, hoping that others will also apply under the Brooks Tower Accord (BTA) before it's too late.

Gardener Yles St. Come, a national of Haiti, and Chinese restaurant worker Du Qun Wu were the first undocumented persons in the Netherlands Antilles to become legal residents based on the accord, a legalisation programme for persons who have been living in the Netherlands Antilles illegally since before December 31, 2005. Undocumented persons in St. Maarten, Curaçao and Bonaire have four more weeks to register for BTA permits.

Thirty-four others here have qualified for the one-year permit, Antillean Justice Minister Magali Jacoba told reporters Wednesday. Some 910 undocumented persons living in St. Maarten have applied since the authorities started accepting applications on November 3 for consideration under the BTA. "We want more to come," Jacoba said.

Jacoba handed over both permits, saying that both of the newly-legal residents now no longer needed to fear immigration controls. "I'm glad you can now walk with an open mind and without thinking that you can be deported," the minister told WU, who works at Chippie Cafe and has lived in St. Maarten since 1997.

She told St. Come – an immigrant here for 22 years who works as a gardener and does other odd jobs: "From now on, you can walk free."

Lt. Governor Franklyn Richards told him: "It brings you into a position where you feel safer on St. Maarten."

But with the minister's praise came the warning: Apply for normal work and residence permits or risk again falling out of the system.

"This is an open door for you, but you need to arrange the documents," Jacoba said, advising that they apply at least four months before the temporary permits would expire.

Once the permits expire on November 3, 2010, all permit holders become undocumented again.

The minister lauded the first recipients of temporary permits and challenged the critics of the BTA for their attacks on the programme. "I'm very glad to show the community of St. Maarten that this was not a trap," said Jacoba, a jab at, among others, Comprehensive Business Association (CBA) president Elco Rosario who has publicly suggested that the project might be a hoax.

Leader of Government Commissioner William Marlin said Wu and St. Come should "encourage others to follow suit" while they still have the chance. "There are probably thousands more who can qualify," said Marlin, mentioning the 36 permits that already have been approved.

"People who know you and know that you have been here for many years and know that you have been living here and were undocumented, [also know] that you have been given the opportunity to legalize and regulate your stay," he said.

Jacoba assured that permits would be processed within two weeks. The Brooks Tower Accord continues until December 15. After that, the Central Government will begin preparations for widespread controls starting in March.



Thanksgiving Buffet at La Vista Restaurant Thursday November 26th 2009

5.00 PM - 10.30 PM

Soup

Roasted Pumpkin Bisque

Pasta Station

Fettuccini, Linguini, Farfalle, Shrimp, Scallops, Clams, Mussels
Roasted Vegetables, Grilled Chicken

Carving Station

Rosemary and Garlic Spiked Prime Rib w/ Sauce au Jus
Honey Glazed Ham with Cinnamon-Pineapple Sauce

Pizza Station

Assorted Homemade Pizzas

Entrees

Slow Roasted Turkey w/ Sage Dressing and Giblet Gravy
Mahi Mahi with Papaya Salsa
Pumpkin Ravioli
Candied Sweet Potatoes
Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Honey Glazed Carrots and Green Beans

Dessert Station

Chocolate Mousse, Pecan, Apple & Pumpkin Pie,
Pineapple Upside down Cake, Double Fudge Brownies, Chocolate Dipped Cookies,
Bread Pudding w/ Grand Marnier Crème Anglaise & Queso



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Swindler's 57 victims may never get their money back

PHILIPSBURG--The 57 victims of swindler Felix Martin Lake (63) received bad news Wednesday at the Court of First Instance. Not only were they displeased to learn that their foe would possibly escape an eight-month jail sentence; they also found that it would be very unlikely for them to receive their money back.

According to the Prosecutor's Office, Lake, who is originally from Aruba, has been responsible for swindling 57 persons, mainly from the Haitian community, out of a total amount of US \$1,163,600.

Lake was tried in absentia. He is currently residing at an unknown address in Miami, Florida.

The man forged fake contracts for land deals through his company Harmony Development N.V., while

in fact he didn't hold title to the land. Prosecutor Jan Bart Develing said that Lake has been known among local St. Maarteners for his "ill-fated investment projects" for 20 years already.

This time, Lake had told his "clients" that he held ownership of pieces of land in Diamond Estate, Guana Bay, and Hope Estate. Sales agreements were signed, and down payments of up to \$50,000 made, but Lake never delivered the land.

In fact, he had only negotiated with the owners of the above-mentioned properties. He had signed letters of intent to purchase these lots and had paid \$200,000 in deposits, but the actual purchases were never made.

Attorney-at-law Folkert Hiemstra will be representing several of Lake's victims in a civil procedure in their bid

to get their money back. He said Wednesday that there is no proof to be found at the Kadaster (Land Registry) of Lake's ownership of any piece of land in St. Maarten.

The Prosecutor explained to the 12 victims present at the Courthouse that he had had no other choice but to release Lake after the Judge of Instruction had ordered his release in March. Lake had promised that he would reimburse his victims, but this never materialized. Instead, he fled to the United States, never to return.

Develing asked for the

maximum punishment of three years, but much to his surprise Judge Monique Keppels only imposed eight months. Develing said he would consider appealing the verdict.

Hiemstra said that ten days ago he had received an email in which Lake had stated that he had felt the moral obligation to pay his victims back. "But to be honest," Hiemstra said, "I don't think they will get their money back, but maybe we can get him in jail."

The fact that Lake would get away unpunished did not sit

very well with his victims. "This man should not be at home. Through him we lost all we had," one of them said. Develing said that it would be possible for the Prosecutor's Office to file a request for Lake's extradition with the authorities in the United States. But, he added, in such a case it would be mandatory to present Lake in person with a copy of the verdict. Develing said that this could become a stumbling block because U.S. authorities might not be aware of Lake's whereabouts. An international arrest warrant could be issued via Interpol.

William: No decision yet on who will manage national health insurance

~ Project will go on bid ~

PHILIPSBURG--The Executive Council has not made a formal decision yet on who will manage

the National Health Insurance System (NHIS) for Country St. Maarten.

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Leader of Government Commissioner William Marlin said Wednesday that the project would go on bid and any organisation or group of persons would get a chance to bid.

He said government had taken note of Social Insurance Bank (SVB) and Health Cost Bureau (BZV) workers' concerns and that it would not turn its back on these workers.

They had asked that government give them written guarantees that their jobs and accumulated benefits would be maintained when NHIS was introduced. The workers had also met with several members of the Executive Council and had submitted a petition to government.

Marlin: "Their situation of course is being looked at and will be looked at ... It is definitely not the intention of this Executive Council to turn its back on them and leave them stranded along the wayside. That will not happen."



US survey shows southern counties most obese

By MIKE STOBBE,
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA — The first county-by-county survey of obesity reflects past studies that show the rate of obesity is highest in the Southeast and Appalachia.

High rates of obesity and diabetes were reported in more than 80 percent of counties in the Appalachian region that includes Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia, according to the new research from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The same problem was seen in about 75 percent of counties in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia and South Carolina.

The five counties with the highest rates were Greene and Dallas counties in Alabama and Holmes, Humphreys and Jefferson counties in Mississippi. All are small, rural counties in the west central areas of each state, and each reported obesity rates of around 44 or 43 percent. The national adult obesity rate is roughly 26 percent.

The statistics are estimates for the year 2007 — based on surveys, census figures and other information for that and other years — and include a margin of error. The obesity rates in many counties were about the same, so it's difficult to say any county or counties was clearly the single most obese county, CDC officials said.

The CDC also released Thursday county-specific data for diabetes — Type 2 is closely tied to obesity. Counties with the lowest rates of both obesity and diabetes were out west — Boulder County, Colo., Santa Fe County, N.M., and Summit County, Utah, were at the top of each list.

Just under 13 percent of people in those counties were obese, and only about 4 percent reported diabetes, the CDC found.

There are a range of possible explanations for counties in the South and Appalachia have the highest rates of obesity and diabetes, experts said. A culture that embraces fatty, unhealthy foods and shuns exercise may be one. Genetics may be another. Income and

education probably have a lot to do with it, too — people living in poor communities may not have the money to eat healthier, more expensive foods or may not have access to gyms or safe jogging trails, they said.

The Alabama counties at the top of the list are low-income, mostly African-American communities that probably ended up high on the list because the estimates assumed higher rates of obesity and diabetes in counties with those demographics, said Dr. Jim McVay, director of the health promotion and chronic disease for the Alabama Department of Public Health.

"I can't say that those are accurate," he said of the CDC estimates.

Some experts said they

hope the county estimates will highlight the problem and persuade local officials to focus more attention on combating the problems.

"In the end, it comes down to those that have to direct resources at the local level," said Dr. Miriam Vos, assistant professor of pediatrics at Atlanta's Emory School of Medicine. "It's not something that can change as easily at the federal level."

McVay said local efforts are important, but ultimately obesity comes down to individual behavior and trying to change that. "How do you influence people to make lifestyle changes? That's the question," he said.

The study was published in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.



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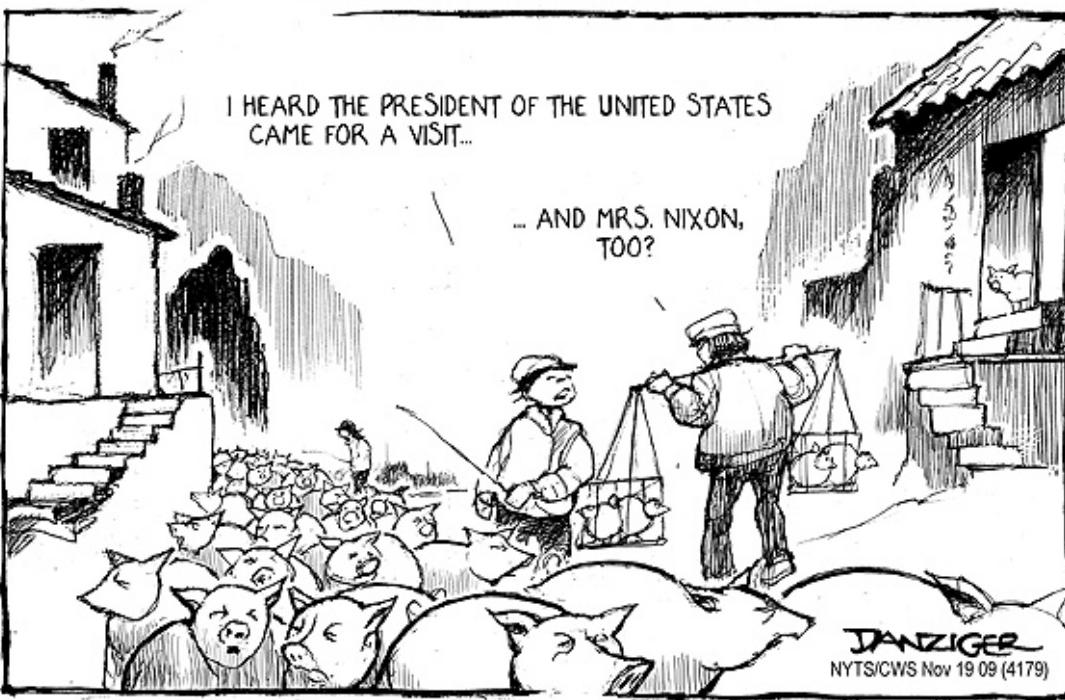
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The News Slowly Reaches Rural China



Obama's Doubletalk on Political Dissent

Michelle Malkin

Creators Syndicate — President Obama traveled all the way to China to praise the free flow of information. It's the only safe place he could do so without getting heckled. With a straight face, Obama lauded political dissent and told Chinese students he welcomed unfettered criticism in America. Fierce opposition, he said, made him "a better leader because it forces me to hear opinions that I don't want to hear." How do you say "You lie!" in Mandarin? While the kowtow-in-chief's press shop feeds paeans to free speech into Obama's globetrotting teleprompter, the White House is still waging war on vocal foes at home. Obama has lectured his critics in Washington to stop talking and "get out of the way." He has stacked his carefully staged town halls with partisan stooges and campaign plants throughout the year. The president recently derided limited-government activists in the Tea Party movement with a vulgar sexual term used by left-wing cable host Anderson Cooper on CNN and the MSNBC smear merchants (just Google "teabagging" and you'll see what they mean).

There are now more muzzled watchdogs in the Obama administration than on the sidelines of the Westminster Kennel Club show.

Most recently, two EPA lawyers critical of the "fatally flawed" cap-and-trade system — peddled by their agency, the White House and the Democratic majority — were told by their superiors to yank a video they posted to YouTube explaining their views. Despite including a caveat that the opinions expressed were their own and not the agency's, the couple faces possible disciplinary action by the feds. While demanding the video be yanked, the EPA disingenuously claims it tolerates all dissenting views of its employees.

The clampdown follows on the heels of the Obama EPA's stifling of veteran researcher Alan Carlin's dissent. He dared to challenge the agency's reliance on outdated data to support its greenhouse gas "public endangerment" finding. Carlin's report was squelched; his office is now on the chopping block.

In China, O proclaimed himself "a big supporter of non-censorship." But his FCC "diversity" czar, Mark Lloyd, is bent on re-engineering public airwaves by redistributing free speech rights from conservative haves who earned their success to minority have-nots who demand talk radio entitlements in the name of "media justice."

And among Obama's closest advisers is a husband-and-wife duo who specializes in marginalizing and stifling the Democratic Party's most effective enemies. Just days after White House interim communications director Anita Dunn — the administration's resident Mao cheerleader and Fox News-basher — stepped down to take a planned role as a "consultant" behind the scenes, her husband, Robert Bauer, stepped up and shoved aside White House counsel Greg Craig.

Senate Health Bill Rejects Anti-Choice Extremes

John Nichols

The Nation — The Senate healthcare bill unveiled Wednesday night by Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nevada, is not exactly the cure for all of what ails America.

But the 2,074-page document significantly expands access to medical care for Americans who currently lack coverage, contains a modest public option, bars discrimination by insurers against Americans with pre-existing medical conditions and gets remarkably good marks from the Congressional Budget Office. In many respects, Reid's "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" is a better bill than the House measure.

And in one respect, it is dramatically better.

The Senate plan does not contain the draconian "Stupak" language, which was written into the House bill with the intent of establishing radical new limits on access to reproductive health services.

As part of negotiations to secure passage of the House healthcare reform bill, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-California, agreed to a vote on an amendment by Congressman Bart Stupak, D-Michigan, that did not merely forbid a government-run "public option" from covering abortion services. It also barred private insurance plans that might participate in the exchange set up by the new program from doing so.

Republicans in the House aligned with 64 Democrats to attach the radical anti-abortion language to the bill, which was then passed by a narrow 220-215 margin.

Reid rejects the Stupak language. That does not mean that his measure is a pro-choice bonanza. It preserves existing limits on public-funding of abortions. But, as part of the exchange set up by the bill, families and individuals who participate in the new program could purchase insurance plans that provide abortion coverage.

"We're basically going to keep current law, which is what we ought to do," says Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, a pro-choice Democrat who participated in the session where Reid unveiled the Senate measure.

The current law is defined by the Hyde amendment, a measure named for former Illinois Congressman Henry Hyde that was approved in 1976. The Hyde amendment prohibits federal money from paying for abortions except in cases of rape or incest or instances where a woman's life is endangered.

The National Organization for Women has described the Stupak Amendment as "Hyde on Steroids."

Several Democratic senators whose support will be essential if this bill is to have a chance of being enacted in its current form, including opponents of abortion rights such as Pennsylvania Democrat Bob Casey, have indicated that they would be willing to vote for a measure that maintains the constraints established by Hyde -- even if the Stupak provisions are removed. That's good news for Reid, who is still struggling to wrangle up 60 votes in order to get the debate

started.

If the Senate passes the bill as written by the majority leader -- and that remains a big "if" -- the Senate and House measures will then have to be reconciled in a conference committee involving key leaders from both chambers. The final compromise would likely maintain the Hyde amendment but not go as far as Stupak proposed.

That would be a win for pro-choice forces, which have made elimination of the Stupak language a high priority.

The fight over abortion rights would continue in the House, however, as Pelosi built her majority there by drawing in a number of anti-choice representatives who said they backed the House bill because it included the Stupak language. Stupak bluntly declares that, if the legislation that comes back to the House does not include his amendment, "healthcare will not move forward."

Pelosi will have her work cut out for her. And she will, unquestionably, need an assist from the White House.

In other words, while the Senate may clean up some of the mess, it will take a major intervention by President Obama to wrangle the votes needed to pass a healthcare reform bill that maintains existing rules with regard to abortion.

Of course, the right health care reform bill would go much further and say that women have a right to all safe and legal medical services -- be they provided as part of a public plan or by a private insurer.

The 10 Best Fashion Designers of the Decade (2000-2009)

Over the last decade, TV shows like Project Runway, films like Valentino: The Last Emperor, and even our own First Lady, have made us more interested in fashion design than ever. Designing clothing is a form of visual art that's often overlooked, and a true sign of life in culture. Here, we celebrate the best designers of the last ten years.

10. Christian Siriano
This 23-year-old won Project Runway Season Four. He's got all kinds of celebrity clients, from Heidi Klum to Whoopi Goldberg, and he can go from high fashion to completely accessible—he's currently designing for budget shoe company Payless.

9. Sweet P Vaughn
Though this Season Four Project Runway contestant didn't make it to the finals, she's our favorite PR designer. We love her edgy, feminine looks and her visual artist husband's contributions to her designs. Fun fact: She used to be in an all-girl motorcycle club.

8. Vivienne Westwood

Tartan was quickly making a comeback, and who better to herald its coming than the Queen of Crazy British Ladies, Vivienne Westwood.

7. Stella McCartney
In the last decade, through her work as Creative Director of Chloé, partnering with Gucci, and costume designing for Madonna, the Beatle progeny has earned a name for herself independent of her famous father.

6. Jason Wu
Wu got the only nod anyone needed at the end of the decade—one from our brand new, chic First Lady, who wears stuff we'd actually like to (oh, and possibly can) buy and wear.

5. Thakoon
With the iron-clad praises of Anna Wintour, Thakoon soared into success, complete with a GAP line.

4. Zac Posen
Young Hollywood, especially Natalie Portman, has embraced Zac Posen's old-world elegance



and curve-hugging garments, making him a true red-carpet staple.

3. Diane Von Furstenberg
DVF completed her comeback with her effortless and complementary style, putting a wrap dress in every girl's closet.

2. Alexander McQueen
The revival of edgy, rock-inspired clothing has made Alexander McQueen's bold and controversial designs a powerhouse in high fashion.

1. Marc Jacobs
Designing for Louis Vuitton and creating his own lines, the award-winning Jacobs has gone from courting celebrities to becoming one himself, and over the last decade he's featured the likes of Stephen Malkmus, M.I.A. and more in his provocative ad campaigns.

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Stronger dollar, weak economic data pummels stocks



Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York, Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009.
(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

By STEPHEN BERNARD and SARA LEPRO, AP Business Writers
NEW YORK – A stronger dollar and more discouraging signs of a subdued economic recovery triggered a broad sell-off in stocks.

Major indexes tumbled more than 1 percent Thursday, including the Dow Jones industrials, which fell about 133 points.

Energy and material stocks showed the biggest losses as a jump in the dollar sent commodity prices tumbling. Meanwhile, an analyst's downgrade of the chip sector pulled technology shares sharply lower.

Analysts said the dollar was the biggest force behind Thursday's

trading, as it has been in recent months. A stronger dollar makes commodities more expensive to foreign buyers, and companies that produce the commodities make less money from them.

"There might be a little fear out there about dollar strengthening, as well as some natural profit-taking opportunities," said Dan Cook, senior market analyst at IG Markets Inc. in Chicago. "We've been on an amazing run."

The stronger dollar also makes U.S. goods and services more expensive, and theoretically harder to sell, overseas. And U.S. companies that do business abroad make less money when their earnings are translated from other countries' currencies into

dollars.

The latest data on the economy gave investors little incentive to hold on to stocks.

A private forecast of economic activity rose less than expected in October, signaling slow growth next year. The Conference Board said its index of leading economic indicators, which forecasts activity over the next six months, rose 0.3 percent last month, less than the 0.5 percent gain economists anticipated. The index climbed 1 percent in September.

There was also disappointing news on housing. The Mortgage Bankers Association said more than 14 percent of American homeowners with a mortgage

were either behind on their payments or in foreclosure at the end of September. The industry group's quarterly report fed fears that a nascent recovery in the housing market could be upended by a continuing surge in loan defaults, especially as unemployment keeps rising.

Earlier Thursday, a report from the Labor Department said the number of newly laid-off workers seeking unemployment insurance was unchanged last week at 505,000, in line with expectations. But the figure remains above the level that would indicate the economy is adding jobs.

At midday, the Dow fell 132.03, or 1.3 percent, to 10,294.28. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 17.63, or 1.6 percent, to 1,092.17, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 40.77, or 1.9 percent, to 2,152.37.

The day's trade marked a shift out of riskier assets and back into safe havens like the dollar and Treasurys. After amassing

significant gains during an eight-month rally in stocks, investors don't want to take too many risks going into the end of the year.

"Large money managers, going into the end of the year, are looking to protect their gains and are shifting assets," said Adam Gould, senior portfolio manager at Direxion Funds in New York. For much of this year, the dollar has been declining as the Federal Reserve's record-low interest rates enable investors to borrow cheaply and encourage them to invest in assets other than cash.

Commodity producers and other companies with major export operations have been among the biggest beneficiaries of the dollar's decline.

Now, investors are starting to

wonder whether the dollar's decline has run its course and that other markets have gotten a little overheated considering the challenges the economy still faces, like high unemployment. Bonds rallied as stocks fell. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, fell to 3.33 percent from 3.37 percent late Wednesday.

The ICE Futures US dollar index, which measures the dollar against other major currencies, gained 0.4 percent, weighing on commodities prices. Gold fell, while oil prices dropped \$1.72 to \$77.86 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

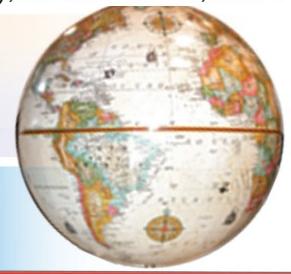
After stocks breached new 13-month highs earlier this week, investors want to see more concrete evidence that the economic recovery is firmly on track. High unemployment still has investors worried that the massive gains in stocks since early March are overdone.

The market's losses on Thursday added to a modest decline the day before when stocks slipped on a drop in home construction and worse-than-expected forecasts from technology companies. More than five stocks fell for every one that rose on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 476.6 million shares, compared with 463.1 million at the same time on Wednesday.

In other trading, the Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 14.63, or 2.4 percent, to 585.52. Overseas, Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.5 percent, Germany's DAX index lost 1.5 percent, and France's CAC-40 slid 1.8 percent. Earlier Thursday, Japan's Nikkei stock average fell 1.3 percent.

INTERNATIONAL

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On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Friday, November 20, 2009



Ann M. Veneman, executive director for UNICEF, the U.N. children's agency, speaks during a press conference in New York, Thursday Nov. 19, 2009. UNICEF issued a special edition of its annual report on The State of the World's Children on the eve of Friday's 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to spotlight the treaty's achievements and challenges.

Associated Press

U.N. says more children in school and fewer dying

EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Twenty years after the U.N. adopted a treaty guaranteeing children's rights, 1 billion children are still deprived of food, shelter or clean water, and nearly 200 million are chronically malnourished, UNICEF said Thursday.

There are some bright spots — fewer youngsters are dying and more are going to school, the U.N. children's agency said in a report issued on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

UNICEF Executive Director Ann Veneman said the convention "has transformed the way children are viewed and treated throughout the world."

"As the first decade of the 21st century comes to a close, the convention stands at a pivotal moment," she told a news conference.

"Its relevance remains timeless. The challenge for the next 20 years is to build on the progress achieved, working together to reach those children who are still being denied their rights to survival, development, protection and participation."

The convention has the widest support of any human rights treaty, with ratifications legally binding 193 countries to its provisions. But not all countries are implementing its requirements, Veneman said. Only two countries — the United States and Somalia — have not ratified it. The Clinton administration in the 1990s signed the convention but never submitted it to the Senate for ratification because a number of groups argued it infringed on the rights of parents and was inconsistent with state and local laws.

Asked about the U.S. failure to ratify, Veneman said "it is frustrating," but she noted

that President Barack Obama and U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice "have expressed a strong desire to move the U.S. in the direction of approving the convention."

Over the past 20 years, she said, more than 70 countries have used the convention to incorporate codes protecting children and ensuring their rights into national legislation.

The convention has also brought measures "to ensure that children are safeguarded from violence, abuse, discrimination and exploitation," Veneman said. Still, the report said that between 500 million and 1.5 billion children are estimated to experience violence annually. Among those attending the news conference was a former child soldier from Uganda, 29-year-old Grace Akallo.

Continued on page 6

FAA glitch causes widespread U.S. air travel delays



Flight cancellations appear on screens near AirTran ticketing counters at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009. A problem with the system that collects airlines' flight plans caused widespread flight cancellations and delays across the U.S. Thursday. It was the second time in 15 months that a glitch in the flight plan system caused delays.

Associated Press

HARRY R. WEBER
AP Airlines Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Air travelers around the United States scrambled to revise their plans Thursday after an FAA computer glitch caused widespread cancellations and delays for the second time in 15 months.

Airports in Europe reported no immediate problems. The Federal Aviation Administration said the problem, which lasted about five hours, was fixed around 10 a.m., but it was unclear how long flights would be affected. Doug Church, a spokesman for the National Air Traffic Controllers Union, said controllers were entering flight plans manually in some locations even after the glitch was fixed.

Continued on page 5

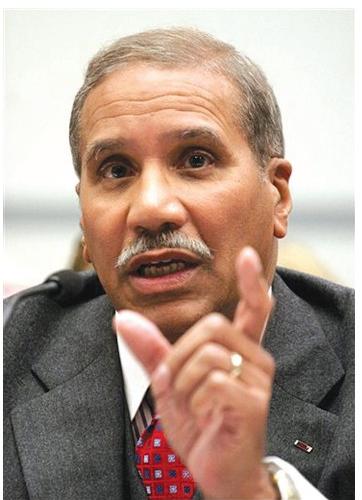
AP Exclusive: Muslim countries seek blasphemy ban

FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press Writer

GENEVA (AP) — Four years after cartoons of the prophet Muhammad set off violent protests across the Muslim world, Islamic nations are mounting a campaign for an international treaty to protect religious symbols and beliefs from mockery — essentially a ban on blasphemy that would put them on a collision course with free speech laws in the West.

Continued on page 8

Pentagon looking for Fort Hood management lapses



In this April 17, 2007 file photo, former Army Secretary Togo West testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington. West, and former Navy Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vernon Clark were named to review a broad range of Pentagon programs, ranging from medical and personnel policies to how well military bases are secured.

Associated Press

ANNE GEARAN
AP National Security Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon said Thursday it will scour its procedures for identifying volatile U.S. military service members hidden in the ranks following the Fort Hood shooting rampage and lapses that might allow others to slip through bureaucratic cracks. “It is prudent to determine immediately whether there are internal weaknesses or procedural shortcomings in

the department that could make us vulnerable in the future,” Defense Secretary Robert Gates said. A 45-day emergency investigation will examine personnel, medical, mental health, discharge and other policies in all corners of the vast Defense Department. It will also look at ways to improve security and emergency response at Defense Department facilities.

“The shootings at Fort Hood raise a number of troubling

questions that demand complete but prompt answers,” Gates told a Pentagon news conference. The quick review will be led by two former Pentagon officials, former Army Secretary Togo West and former Navy chief Vernon Clark.

A longer, second review lasting about six months will look at what Gates called “systemic institutional shortcomings.” Gates, who has fired several top officials in three years heading the Pentagon, did not address any possible consequences of the inquiries he announced Thursday.

Gates broached little new information about the case of Army Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, the Army psychiatrist accused of killing 13 people and wounding more than 30 in the shootings at the Texas military post on Nov. 5.

Gates called it disturbing that Hasan has e-mail contact with a radical cleric in Yemen, but stressed that his review is separate from the criminal investigation into Hasan and should not be interpreted as a finger-pointing exercise

against Muslims or anyone else.

Investigators have said e-mails between Hasan and the imam, Anwar al-Awlaki, did not advocate or threaten violence. After the shootings, al-Awlaki’s Web site praised Hasan as a hero.

Both Gates and Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the chief goal of the Pentagon probe is preventing another such attack and improving future responses by disaster teams.

West was Army secretary in the mid-1990s and later became secretary of veterans affairs. Clark was the chief of naval operations from 2000 to 2005.

In 2007, Gates named West co-chairman of a panel created to review rehabilitation care problems at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington and the National Naval Medical Center in suburban Bethesda, Maryland.

In 1995, as President Bill Clinton’s Army Secretary, West ordered a review of the Army’s racial climate, including whether there

were ties between extremist groups and members of the military. The investigation was prompted by the arrests of two paratroopers in connection with the murders of two black people and concerns that the two men may have had ties to white supremacist groups.

Gates would not comment Thursday on whether he considers the Fort Hood attack a terrorist act. Sen. Joseph Lieberman, an independent, told a Senate hearing that he does, and urged a government investigation “to learn whether the federal government could have acted in a way that would have prevented these murders from occurring.”

Sen. Susan Collins, a Republican, questioned whether the government failed to connect dots about Hasan.

“We must better understand why law enforcement, intelligence agencies and our military personnel system may have failed in this case,” Collins said.

A joint terrorism task force overseen by the FBI learned late last year of Hasan’s repeated contact with al-Awlaki, who encouraged Muslims to kill U.S. troops in Iraq. The FBI said the task force did not refer early information about Hasan to superiors because it concluded he wasn’t linked to terrorism.

Hasan’s psychiatry supervisors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center had expressed concerns in May 2007 about what they described as Hasan’s “pattern of poor judgment and lack of professionalism.”

President Barack Obama already has ordered a review of all intelligence related to Hasan, including his contacts with al-Awlaki, concerns raised about Hasan by some of his medical colleagues, and whether warnings were properly shared and acted upon within government agencies.

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No rebuke for ‘admonish,’ 2009 Word of the Year

BOB SALSBERG

Associated Press Writer

S P R I N G F I E L D ,

Massachusetts (AP)—When the U.S. House admonished Rep. Joe Wilson for shouting “You lie!” at President Barack Obama during a health care speech to Congress, it not only lit up talk show lines, but also sent many people scurrying to the Internet in search of a definition.

Admonish, a verb dating to the 14th century meaning “to express warning or disapproval in a gentle, earnest, or solicitous manner,” generated enough curiosity to crown it Merriam-Webster’s Word of the Year for 2009.

It beat out several other finalists that emerged from what the dictionary publisher’s editor at large, Peter Sokolowski, called the “intersection of news and vocabulary.” Runners-up announced Thursday included inaugurate, pandemic, furlough and rogue — the latter tied to Sarah Palin and the sole carryover from the 2008 list.

Virtually all the words were associated with a news event or coverage and resulted in a prolonged spike of look-ups on the dictionary offered online for free by Merriam-Webster, based in Springfield, Massachusetts.

“Words that make up this list are words that jumped and stayed up there,” Sokolowski said. “Even if the word was no longer on the front page of the newspaper, it was still something that people were blogging about or reading about online.”

“Admonish” shot to the top in part because it was used at several stages of the story — originally to describe the reaction to Wilson’s outburst, then to the editorial reaction, and finally to the

official House resolution admonishing the South Carolina Republican. Dictionary users may have been seeking to distinguish shades of meaning from synonyms such as “scold” or “rebuke,” Sokolowski said. Those terms suggest a harsher tone, while “admonish” suggests a decidedly more genteel response.

Another word on Merriam-Webster’s 2009 Top 10 list, “emaciated,” generated a flurry of interest after it was used to describe the condition of Michael Jackson’s body after the entertainer’s death in June. It was the most looked-up word of the summer, Sokolowski said.

Only one of the year’s top words had no clear peg to current events. It was “nugatory,” an adjective meaning “of little or no consequence.” Sokolowski said that while it was a favorite word of his, he remains puzzled as to why it created a buzz of sudden dictionary interest.

A search of Associated Press news archives found no reference to “nugatory” in any recent story.

The Wall Street financial crisis gave rise to “bailout,” the 2008 Word of the Year. In the two previous years, Merriam-Webster used online polls or surveys, producing “w00t” (an exclamation used by online gamers) in 2007 and “truthiness” (a term coined by political satirist Stephen Colbert) in 2006.

Other dictionary makers and groups also announce Words of the Year, using different methodology. The New Oxford American Dictionary chose “unfriend,” the act of removing someone as a friend on Facebook or other

social networking site.

Oxford uses a committee of lexicographers and other experts to select a word that is not currently in the dictionary but will be added. Merriam-Webster, on the other hand, selects among existing entries based on Web site traffic.

“It gives a certain amount of insight into the preoccupations of the past year,” said Allan Metcalf, an English professor at MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois, and executive secretary of the American Dialect Society, who compared the selection of a Word of the Year to Time Magazine’s Person of the Year.

The society plans to name its Word of the Year, along with a Word of the Decade, in January, Metcalf said.

The word “rogue” made Merriam-Webster’s 2008 list after Palin, the Republican vice presidential candidate, was said to have “gone rogue” from the John McCain campaign. It resurfaced this year when the former Alaska governor prepared to release her book, titled “Going Rogue.”

The sense in which the word was used to describe Palin does not, in fact, correspond to any of the five definitions for the noun rogue in the Merriam-Webster collegiate dictionary, which range from a “dishonest or worthless person” to a “horse inclined to shirk or misbehave.”

However, the definition for the adjective form of rogue does appear to fit Palin, right down to the elephant that’s a symbol of the GOP: “resembling or suggesting a rogue elephant especially in being isolated, aberrant, dangerous, or uncontrollable.”



In this Sept. 9, 2009, file photo, Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C. is seen on Capitol Hill in Washington, as President Barack Obama delivered a speech on healthcare to a joint session of Congress. The U.S. House later admonished Wilson for shouting ‘You Lie!’ at the president. The word, ‘admonish,’ generated enough curiosity to crown it Merriam-Webster’s Word of the Year for 2009.

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GOP governors push for 2010 party rebirth

By LIZ SIDOTI

AP National Political Writer

CEDAR CREEK, Texas

— Thrilled with twin victories this month, Republican governors are looking to lead a party-wide resurgence in 2010 and shape the GOP for years to come.

Republicans boast of a strong crop of gubernatorial candidates who could be future party leaders, \$25 million in the bank a year before the elections and a difficult environment for Democrats, particularly in financially ailing swing-voting states like Ohio and Iowa.

"Next year's going to be a good year for Republican governors," predicted Haley Barbour, Mississippi's governor and chairman of the Republican Governors Association. "In states where there are Republican governors, people can see if conservative and Republican ideas, when actually implemented, work." Yet, Republicans face a Democratic Party that holds more states and is led by a proven fundraiser in President Barack Obama. There's no certainty that the landscape will continue to tilt toward the GOP a year from now or that

a party plagued by infighting and lacking a standard-bearer will find a winning message by then.

More than control of statehouses is at stake. Governors elected in 2010 will be instrumental in redrawing congressional and legislative districts. And they will lay the foundation in important states for the 2012 presidential race when Obama is expected to run for re-election.

Republican governors and gubernatorial candidates met this week outside of Austin to plot strategy. On hand were possible presidential candidates like Barbour and Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota as well as Bobby Jindal of Louisiana and Mitch Daniels of Indiana. Govs.-elect Bob McDonnell of Virginia and Chris Christie of New Jersey attended, as did the GOP's top recruits for 2010 races, including John Kasich, a former congressman, in Ohio and Attorney General Tom Corbett in Pennsylvania.

Mindful of polls showing voters fearful of the economy and angry at Washington for budget-busting spending, Republicans honed a message of fiscal discipline and job

creation.

They also dissected victories in Democratic-held New Jersey and Virginia this month. The wins were due in no small part to the flight of independents toward the GOP as well as an emphasis on pocketbook issues and the candidates' aggressive use of the Internet to reach voters.

Republicans hope for big wins in 2010 and also that governors elected next fall will become a collective catalyst for a rebirth after disastrous back-to-back national elections in 2006 and 2008.

There's precedent for governors leading the charge in mending devastated parties, and for governorships being a training ground for a party's next crop of national leaders. Republicans were wiped out in 1964 when Barry Goldwater carried only Southern states. But two years later, Republicans rebounded. The GOP made its biggest gains in gubernatorial races, picking up eight states in a class of 1966 that included such up-and-comers as Ronald Reagan in California. The GOP was soundly beaten again in 1976 but 1978 saw Republicans gain six states, and after the



This Dec. 3, 2008 file photo shows Mississippi Republican Gov. Haley Barbour talking to reporters in Jackson, Miss. Thrilled with twin victories this month, Republican governors are looking to lead a party-wide resurgence in 2010 and shape the GOP for years to come.

Associated Press

big Democratic wins in 1992, the GOP picked up 10 states in 1994.

Conversely, Democrats were demoralized after Reagan's presidential win in 1980. A resurgence began two years later when Democrats gained seven governorships, a class filled with state leaders who would shape Democratic politics for a generation,

including Bill Clinton in Arkansas, Michael Dukakis in Massachusetts and Mario Cuomo in New York.

Now, Republicans control 22 states, and will take charge of New Jersey and Virginia in January.

Voters will choose 37 governors next November, and 21 seats are open. Most are competitive.

At this point, the environment points to Republican gains. "Our goal for next year is to get appreciably above a majority," Barbour said.

The GOP is expected to pick up Democratic-held seats in at least two states John McCain won last fall. In Tennessee, Democratic Gov. Phil Bredesen is retiring with no obvious successor. And in Kansas, Democratic Gov. Mark Parkinson is stepping down after filling the post when Obama chose Kathleen Sebelius as his Health and Human Services secretary; Sen. Sam Brownback is the GOP candidate and is widely expected to win.

Elsewhere, Republicans are targeting Democratic Govs. Bill Ritter in Colorado, Chet Culver in Iowa, Ted Strickland in Ohio — three critical swing-voting states — and Deval Patrick in Massachusetts.

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Señor Frogs to rock Downtown with live tribute



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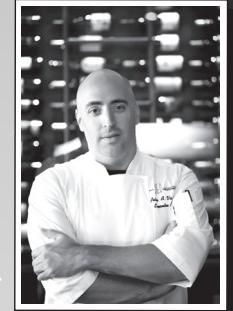
that Señor Frogs, known as the Mexican place to be, will host this tribute to Mana sung live by the singer Marisela. Once more Polar Beer in collaboration with

Jose Cuervo Tequila and Señor Frogs make this tribute concert possible. Doors will be open at Señor Frogs this Saturday from 9 p.m. on the 21st of November.



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UN. Children

Continued from front page

The report noted one of the convention's most outstanding achievements was the improvement in child survival. The number of deaths of children under 5 decreased from around 12.5 million in 1990 to an estimated 8.8 million in 2008 — a 28 percent decline, it said.

Other pluses were an increase in HIV prevention and treatment for children, and an increase in primary school education.

In 2002, some 115 million children weren't going to school, while in 2007 the number dropped to 101 million, the report said. However, while the gender gap has narrowed, girls are still losing out, it said.

Nevertheless, UNICEF said children's rights are far from assured.

"It is unacceptable that children are still dying from preventable causes, like

pneumonia, malaria, measles and malnutrition," Veneman said in a statement. "Many of the world's children will never see the inside of a school room, and millions lack protection against violence, abuse, exploitation, discrimination and neglect."

An estimated 1 billion children lack access to good health care, adequate nutrition, education, clean water, sanitation facilities or adequate shelter.

Children in Africa and Asia suffer the worst deprivation, Veneman said. "More than nine out of 10 children who are not attending school, who are malnourished, and who die before the age of 5 live in these two continents."

More than 24,000 children under 5 die every day from largely preventable causes, according to the report. Some 150 million children aged 5-14 are engaged in child labor and more than 140 million children under 5 are



A street child sleeps next to a stray dog, as another looks for fleas in his clothes, in Katmandu, Nepal, Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009. Twenty years after the U.N. adopted a treaty guaranteeing children's rights, fewer youngsters are dying and more are going to school, but an estimated 1 billion still lack services essential to their survival and development, UNICEF said Thursday.

Associated Press

underweight for their age, it said.

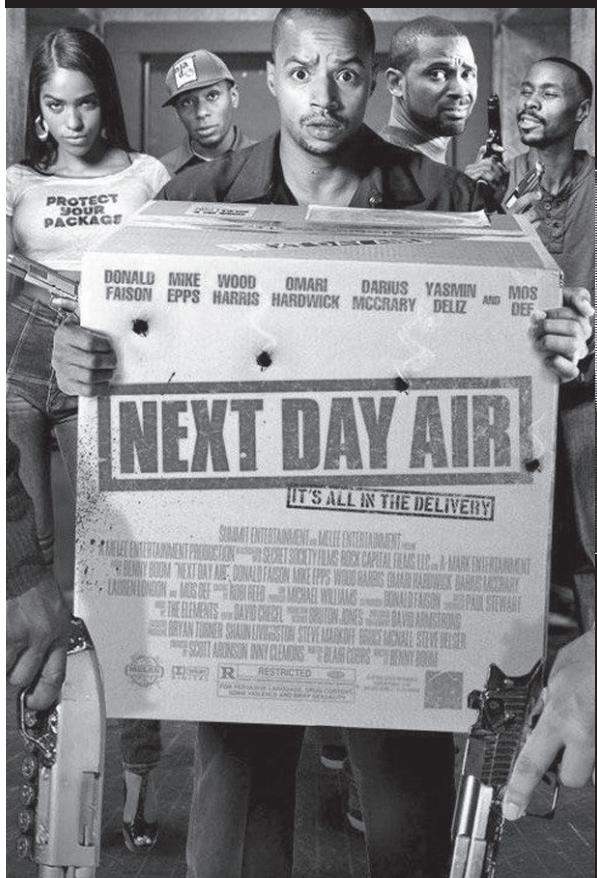
UNICEF said climate and population shifts threaten recent advances in child rights and the convention's 20th

anniversary year has been marked by the worst global financial crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s. "There is a real danger that the repercussions of these

shocks will have lifelong consequences that span generations, undermining efforts to advance children's rights for the coming decades," it warned.



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daily: matinee:		late show:	12:00
<input type="checkbox"/> PG BANDSLAM	4:00	6:30	
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<input type="checkbox"/> PRECIOUS	6:00	8:30	
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<input type="checkbox"/> PG-13 TENDERNESS	9:00		
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<input type="checkbox"/> PG THIS IS IT MICHAEL JACKSON	6:00	8:30	
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<input type="checkbox"/> PG TIM BURTON'S NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS	4:00	6:00	
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<input type="checkbox"/> PG SINTERKLAAS EN DE VERDWEVEN PAKJESBOOT	4:30	6:45	
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AT PASEO HERENCIA

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<input type="checkbox"/> PARANORMAL ACTIVITY	7:45	10:00	NEW
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Obama says U.S., allies discussing Iran sanctions



U.S. President Barack Obama gestures during a joint press conference with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak at the Blue House in Seoul, South Korea. Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009.

Associated Press

CHARLES HUTZLER,
Associated Press Writer
SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —
Showing impatience with Iranian foot-dragging, President Barack Obama said Thursday that the U.S. and its allies are discussing possible new penalties against Iran for defying international attempts to halt its contested nuclear program.

Obama's warning came after Iran rejected a compromise proposal to ship its low-enriched uranium abroad so that it could not be further enriched to make weapons. Talk of fresh sanctions also showed that Obama is preparing for the next phase should Iran fail to meet his year-end deadline for progress in negotiations.

"They have been unable to get to 'yes', and so as a consequence, we have begun discussions with our international partners about the importance of having consequences," Obama said at a news conference with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak.

"Our expectation is, is that over the next several weeks we will be developing a package of potential steps that we could take that will indicate our seriousness to Iran." The U.S. is meeting in Brussels on Friday with five other nations — Britain, China, France, Russia and Germany — to discuss what measures could be used against Iran, according to an EU official who spoke on condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to disclose details of the gathering.

The tough talk on Iran came as Obama wrapped up an eight-day, four-nation tour of Asia in which global issues — nuclear disarmament, climate change, economic recovery — dominated and goodwill abounded. There also were few new agreements on pending issues.

South Korea, Obama's final stop, was a case in point.

Obama and Lee showed unity on disarming nuclear-armed North Korea and differences over concluding a free-trade

agreement stalled by Congress. Obama announced that Stephen Bosworth, his special envoy to North Korea, would make his first trip to Pyongyang on Dec. 8 to test the waters for resuming nuclear disarmament talks.

Lee said Obama endorsed his "grand bargain" for North Korea — a package of economic assistance and investment in exchange for full nuclear disarmament in a single step rather than the piecemeal approaches that have twice failed over the past two decades. "I think President Lee is exactly right and my administration is taking the same approach," Obama said.

The White House said the trip was largely about showing U.S. re-engagement with a region whose fast-growing economies are reordering global politics but that often felt neglected during the Bush administration and its focus on fighting terrorism. To that end, Obama spoke often of reinvigorating alliances with Japan, his first stop, South Korea and in Southeast Asia, and welcoming a prosperous, confident China as a partner.

"We didn't come halfway across the world for ticker-tape parades," senior Obama adviser David Axelrod told reporters Thursday. "We came here to lay a foundation for progress. We've done that."

Obama invested political capital in salvaging next month's climate change conference in Copenhagen. He urged leaders of Asia-Pacific nations gathered in Singapore to rally around a political agreement that would contain emissions reductions goals for countries to meet that would fall short of a full treaty on global warming. China, the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases ahead of the U.S., signed on to the idea too.

Obama addressed cheering U.S. troops stationed at Osan Air Base outside Seoul on Thursday before the return flight to Washington, and gave this assessment of the trip: a renewed U.S.-Japan alliance, commitments to work on free trade with Asia-Pacific nations to aid the global economic recovery and a more positive partnership with China "because cooperation between the United States and China will mean a safer, more prosperous world for all of us."

Asked how the trip went, Obama said: "We got a lot of work done." He then boarded the plane headed for home, where he faces continued lobbying to pass a health care bill and more deliberations on how many more troops to send to Afghanistan.

In talking tough about possible sanctions on Iran for its nuclear program, Obama left open the option that diplomacy could still work. "I continue to hold out the prospect that they may decide to walk through this door" and accept the proposal to ship its low-enriched uranium out of the country, Obama said.

A senior administration official later said Obama was purposely vague on more diplomacy so as not to undermine the search for international consensus that remains in an embryonic phase. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the president's thinking.

Possible sanctions are likely to take months to enact, if the difficulties in crafting this year's U.N. sanctions on North Korea are any indication. China, always reluctant to support sanctions, offered no public assurances that it would agree to punish Iran. As for Russia, whose support also would be vital, White House official Mike McFaul said days ago that the U.S. is "exactly on the same page with the Russians" in exploring diplomacy and consequences.

South Korea gave Obama one of the warmest welcomes during the trip. Crowds lined the motorcade route; some shouted "Obama." After the news conference, Obama and Lee hugged, an unusual gesture in a region noted for its formality.

The only off-note was on the pending free trade agreement, stuck in part because U.S. lawmakers worry it could hurt the struggling American auto industry. Obama said he was committed to completing a deal and that teams from both countries were trying to resolve sticking points.

Lee said the pact was not only economic but strategic — suggesting an agreement would further cement the U.S.-South Korean alliance.

He urged political will to complete it.

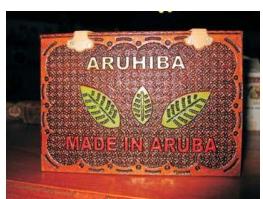
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba.

Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba".

Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open on Sunday from 9am to 8pm. And also at Tamarin Hotel open from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



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Peruvian police: Gang killed people for their fat



A police officer displays two bottles containing human fat while another sets seized sticks of dynamite during a press conference in Lima, Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009. Peruvian police said they have broken up a band of assassins who killed people in order to extract and sell their body fat, which was sold to intermediaries, who police suspect sold it to cosmetic and pharmaceutical companies in Europe.

Associated Press

ANDREW WHALEN,
Associated Press Writer
LIMA, Peru (AP)—A gang in the remote Peruvian jungle has been killing people for their fat, police charged Thursday, draining it from their corpses and offering it on the black market for use in cosmetics. Medical experts expressed skepticism that a major market for fat might exist. Three suspects have confessed

to killing five people for their fat, said Col. Jorge Mejia, chief of Peru's anti-kidnapping police. He said the suspects, two of whom were arrested carrying bottles of liquid fat, told police it was worth \$60,000 a gallon (\$15,000 a liter). Mejia said the suspects told police the fat was sold to intermediaries in Lima, the Peruvian capital. While

police suspect the fat was sold to cosmetic companies in Europe, he could not confirm any sales.

Medical experts expressed doubt about an international black market for human fat, though it does have cosmetic applications. Yale University dermatology professor Dr. Lisa Donofrio speculated that a small market may exist for "human fat extracts" to keep skin supple, though scientifically such treatments are "pure baloney."

At a news conference, police showed reporters two bottles of fat recovered from the suspects and a photo of the rotting head of a 27-year-old male victim. Suspect Elmer Segundo Castillejos, 29, led police to the head, recovered in a coca-growing valley last month, Mejia said.

Mejia said Castillejos confessed that the gang would cut off its victims' heads, arms and legs, remove the organs, then suspend the torsos from hooks above candles that warmed the flesh as the fat dripped into tubs below.

Six members of the gang remain at large, Mejia said,

adding that in addition to the five killings the suspects confessed to, the gang may be involved in dozens more. Castillejos told police that the band's fugitive leader, 56-year-old Hilario Cudena, has been killing to extract fat from victims for more than three decades.

At least 60 people are listed as missing in Huanuco province, where the gang allegedly operated, this year alone, though the province is also home to drug-trafficking leftist rebels.

Mejia said police received a tip four months ago that human fat from the jungle was being sold in Lima. In August, he said, police infiltrated the band and later obtained some of the amber fluid, which a police lab confirmed as human fat.

On Nov. 3, police arrested Serapio Marcos Veramendi and Enedina Estela in a Lima bus station with a quart (a liter) of human fat in a soda bottle.

Their testimony led to the arrest of Castillejos three days later at the same bus station.

The three are charged with homicide, criminal conspiracy,

illegal firearms possession and drug trafficking, according to a statement from Lima Superior Court. Police said they were searching for the alleged buyer.

Police named the band the "Pishtacos" after a Peruvian myth dating to pre-Columbian times of men who killed to extract human fat, quartering their victims with machetes. Mejia said Castillejos claimed his was not the only gang engaged in such killings.

Medical authorities reached by The Associated Press said human fat is used in anti-wrinkle treatments — but is always extracted from the patient being treated, usually from the stomach or buttocks.

"There would be a risk of immunological reaction that could lead to life-threatening consequences" if fat from someone else were used, said Dr. Neil Sadick, a professor of dermatology at Cornell Weill Medical College in New York.

Dr. Adam Katz, a professor of plastic surgery at the University of Virginia medical school, was incredulous when told about the Peruvian ring.

Blasphemy ban

Continued from front page

Documents obtained by The Associated Press show that Algeria and Pakistan have taken the lead in lobbying to eventually bring the proposal to a vote in the U.N. General Assembly.

If ratified in countries that enshrine freedom of expression as a fundamental right, such a treaty would require them to limit free speech if it risks seriously offending religious believers. The process, though, will take years and no showdown is imminent.

The proposal faces stiff resistance from Western countries, including the United States, which in the past has brushed aside other U.N. treaties, such as one on the protection of migrant workers. Experts say the bid stands

some chance of eventual success if Muslim countries persist. And whatever the outcome, the campaign risks reigniting tensions between Muslims and the West that President Barack Obama has pledged to heal, reviving fears of a "clash of civilizations." Four years ago, a Danish newspaper published cartoons lampooning the prophet Muhammad, prompting angry mobs to attack Western embassies in Muslim countries, including Lebanon, Iran and Indonesia. In a countermovement, several European newspapers reprinted the images.

The countries that form the 56-member Organization of the Islamic Conference are now lobbying a little-known Geneva-based U.N. committee to agree that a treaty protecting religions is necessary. The move would be a first step toward drafting an

international protocol that would eventually be put before the General Assembly — a process that could take a decade or more.

The proposal may have some support in the General Assembly. For several years the Islamic Conference has successfully passed a nonbinding resolution at the General Assembly condemning "defamation of religions."

If the treaty was approved, any of the U.N.'s 192 member states that ratified it would be bound by its provisions. Other countries could face criticism for refusing to join.

The United States has declared it won't accept international treaties that restrict the First Amendment right to free speech.

But there are signs the U.S. is worried by the Islamic Conference campaign. Behind the scenes it has been



A view of the offices of Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten in Aarhus, Denmark, Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009. Two Chicago men are charged with plotting terrorist attacks against overseas targets, including at the Danish newspaper that sparked outrage throughout the Muslim world by publishing cartoons by Danish cartoonist Kurt Westergaard depicting the prophet Mohammad in 2005, prosecutors announced Tuesday.

Associated Press

lobbying hard to quash the proposal, dispatching a senior U.S. diplomat to Geneva last month for talks described as akin to trench warfare.

"The U.S. presence can be significant in determining the whole destiny of the process," said Lukas Machon, who

represents the International Commission of Jurists at the U.N.

From a legal point of view, "the whole exercise is dangerous from A-Z because it's a departure from the practice and concept of human rights," Machon said.

Afghan president sworn in to second five-year term

KATHY GANNON

Associated Press Writer

KABUL (AP) — President Hamid Karzai was inaugurated Thursday for a second term, pledging that Afghanistan will prosecute corrupt officials and control its own security within five years.

As Karzai vowed to make the country safe from an increasingly violent Taliban insurgency, two U.S. service members died in a bomb attack and a suicide bomber killed 10 civilians in the south. But his speech appeared to make strides toward appeasing the international allies he needs to fend off the Islamist militants. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Karzai's comments about battling corruption provide a "very strong base on which to measure the actions taken."

"He could have been very vague and talked about how we're all against it and all want to end it, but he was much more specific, and we're going to, along with the people of Afghanistan, watch very carefully to see how that's implemented," said Clinton, who attended Karzai's inauguration.

But she said setbacks are inevitable.

"We are under no illusions about the difficulties of this mission," Clinton said.

The two U.S. service members were killed by a suicide car bomber who detonated his explosives near the gate of a NATO base, said Jilani Farah, deputy chief of police for Zabul province.

The 10 civilians died when a suicide bomber targeting an Afghan security forces convoy blew himself up in a busy market before reaching the convoy, said the deputy police chief of Uruzgan province, Gulad Khan.

Three of the dead were boys aged between 12 and 14 who were selling shopping bags in the market, Khan said. Thirteen people were wounded. Interior Ministry spokesman Zemeri Bashary confirmed the attack.

In his speech, Karzai also said he wanted private Afghan and foreign security companies to stop operating in the country within two years.

"We are determined that by the next five years, the Afghan forces are capable of taking the lead in ensuring security and stability across the country," with foreign troops only responsible for support and training, he said.

Karzai also said nobody was above the law and promised to go after corrupt officials.

His government, he said, "is committed to end the culture of impunity and violation of law and bring to justice those involved in spreading corruption and abuse of public property."

He promised to pass a law requiring that all senior officials — including deputy ministers and provincial governors — declare and register their assets. The legislation would broaden a constitutional provision that already requires such declarations for those of ministerial rank and higher.

Karzai won this year's fraud-marred presidential election after his main rival, Abdullah Abdullah, pulled out of a runoff, saying it was impossible for the vote to be fair.

But Karzai sought to portray himself as a unifying force and invited those who ran in the election to work together for the benefit of the country. "I would like to invite all the presidential candidates, including my brother Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, to come together to achieve the important task of national unity, and make our common home, Afghanistan, proud and prosperous," he said. He stopped short, however, of inviting him into his government.

But Abdullah, who served as Karzai's foreign minister for several years, said it was Karzai's administration that had created the problems.

"His record and policies I consider as the basic and

fundamental reason for the failures of the international community and Afghanistan together," Abdullah told the AP. "So for me it's those agendas for change which are important rather than my having posts in the Cabinet, that has never been my agenda."

Karzai said a loya jirga, or traditional council of elders, would be called to address the insurgency, but did not set a timeframe.

"We will utilize all national and international resources to put an end to war and fratricide," he said.

Karzai, who has often bristled at the criticism leveled at him from Western powers, said his government was doing whatever it could to implement reforms.

He said a conference would be held soon in Kabul to address ways to tackle corruption, and that his government would take its fight against drug trafficking seriously.

The president insisted he would select "expert ministers" capable of providing competent leadership.



Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai greets the guards of honor as he arrives to the Presidential Palace for his inauguration in Kabul, Afghanistan, Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009. After being sworn in to a second five-year term, Karzai said his government was doing whatever it could to implement reforms.

Associated Press

Karzai was sworn in to a second five-year term by the head of the Supreme Court during a ceremony attended by hundreds of Afghan and foreign dignitaries from more than 40 countries, including Clinton, Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari and British Foreign Minister David Miliband. Heavily armed soldiers stood beside armored personnel carriers at the gate to the palace.

Karzai said Zardari's presence at his inauguration was a sign of "good relationship, good brotherhood." Traditionally

rocky relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, which share a 1,510-mile (2,430-kilometer) -long border, have improved steadily since Zardari's elected government replaced the military dictatorship of Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

Some saw Karzai's speech as an indication that he was serious about tackling graft.

"It was a renewed commitment to curb corruption and appoint competent people. I think that was good," said Abdul Qadeer Fitrat, governor of the Afghanistan State Bank.

Russian ship freeing itself from ice in Antarctic

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian icebreaker carrying more than 100 tourists, scientists and journalists on an Antarctic cruise was approaching open water Thursday after being halted by unexpectedly thick ice, its owners and a travel agency said.

The icebreaker Captain Khlebnikov had trouble freeing itself from sea ice earlier this week near Snow Hill Island in the Weddell Sea. It was supposed to return to Ushuaia, Argentina, two days ago but now is not expected until this weekend at the earliest. Fareastern Shipping Co. spokeswoman Tatyana Kulikova said Thursday the icebreaker was about 330 feet away from clear water.

She said a deep fog and a rising tide prevented the ship from immediately moving freely into open water.

"The captain and the crew are now waiting for ebb to start and the ice pack to weaken to reach clear water," she said.

In Britain, Exodus Travels Ltd. said later Thursday that the ship had cleared ice in the Weddell Sea and was approaching open water. Exodus has said 51 British tourists were among the ship's 101 passengers.

"We've heard from the team on board that the Khlebnikov is making 4 knots through the final stretch of pack ice. Open water is in view four miles away and the wind is now in a helpful direction," said Ben Roseveare, sales and marketing director for Exodus Travels. There was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy in the distance to open water. Officials have said the people on board weren't in any danger and were using the unplanned stop to take helicopter tours of the area. Snow Hill Island lies off the northern end of the Antarctic Peninsula, which juts up toward South America.

The cruise was advertised as a unique opportunity to watch emperor penguins in their natural habitat.

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Giants' Lincecum wins second consecutive Cy Young

JAY COHEN,
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — San Francisco Giants ace Tim Lincecum won the National League Cy Young Award on Thursday for the second consecutive season to become the first repeat winner since Randy Johnson seven years ago.

Lincecum led the NL with 261 strikeouts and tied for the league lead with four complete games and two shutouts. The wiry pitcher, nicknamed "The Freak" for his giant stride, went 15-7 with a 2.48 ERA.

Only 10 points separated the top three vote-getters in one of the tightest votes in history. Chris Carpenter was second



FILE - This is a June 29, 2009, file photo showing San Francisco Giants pitcher Tim Lincecum throwing during the third inning of a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals, in St. Louis. Lincecum won the NL Cy Young Award, Thursday Nov. 19, 2009, becoming the first repeat winner in the major leagues since Randy Johnson was voted the prize four straight times from 1999-2002.

Associated Press

and St. Louis Cardinals teammate Adam Wainwright was third, despite getting the most first-place votes.

Lincecum received 11 first-place votes, 12 seconds and nine thirds for 100 points in balloting released by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Carpenter had nine firsts, 14 seconds and seven thirds to finish second with 94.

Wainwright, who led the NL with 19 wins and 233 innings, had 12 first-place votes, five seconds and 15 thirds for 90 points. Closer Trevor Hoffman, who finished behind Atlanta Braves starter Tom Glavine in 1998, is the only other player to finish with the most firsts and not

win the award.

The six-point gap between Lincecum and Carpenter is tied for the third-closest in the NL since the ballot expanded to three pitchers in 1970. The 10-point margin from first to third is the second closest for the NL ballot.

Lincecum, who had a \$650,000 salary and could be headed for a big raise if he goes to arbitration before next season, did not have any bonus provision for winning the award. Carpenter receives \$100,000 for finishing second, Wainwright \$100,000 for winding up third and Vazquez \$70,000 for being voted fourth.



Philadelphia Flyers right wing Claude Giroux, right, shoots the puck from his knees as Los Angeles Kings center Scott Parse gives chase during the third period of their NHL hockey game, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009, in Los Angeles. The Flyers won the game 3-2. Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Philadelphia Flyers opened a five-game road trip with their seventh victory in eight games, beating the Los Angeles Kings 3-2 in the NHL on Wednesday. Mika Pyorala scored his

first NHL goal and backup goalie Brian Boucher made 37 saves.

Mike Richards and James van Riemsdyk also scored, and Braydon Coburn had two assists for the Flyers.

For Los Angeles, Jarrett Stoll had a goal and an assist.

NHL Roundup

Flyers win again, edge Kings 3-2

Oilers 6, Avalanche 2

In Edmonton, Alberta, Edmonton overcame a two-goal deficit to beat Colorado. Ryan Potulny and Patrick O'Sullivan scored third-period goals for the Oilers. After Sam Gagner pulled the Oilers within one with 16 seconds left in the second period, Potulny tied it on a power play at 2:45 of the third. O'Sullivan gave Edmonton a 5-4 lead with 8:53 remaining, and Alex Hemsky added an empty-net goal.

Shawn Horcoff and Gilbert Brule also scored for Edmonton, which ended a run of four losses.

Milan Hejduk scored twice for Colorado.

Stars 3, Red Wings 1

In Detroit, goaltender Alex Auld made 31 saves to help

Dallas beat in-form Detroit.

Mike Ribeiro, Matt Niskanen and Loui Eriksson scored for Dallas while Brad Richards and James Neal each had two assists.

Henrik Zetterberg scored for Detroit, and Jimmy Howard stopped 29 shots but the Red Wings' winning streak was ended at three.

Panthers 6, Sabres 2

In Buffalo, New York, Michael Frolik scored twice, and Dominic Moore and Rostislav Olesz had a goal and an assist each as Florida routed Buffalo.

Tomas Vokoun made 26 saves, while Stephen Weiss and Cory Stillman also scored for the Panthers, who have gone 6-2-1 after a slow start to the season.

For Buffalo, Drew Stafford

and Clarke MacArthur scored as the Sabres winning streak was stopped at three.

Coyotes 3, Wild 2

In St. Paul, Minnesota, Scotty Upshall scored the winner with 4:39 to play, lifting Phoenix over Minnesota.

Radim Vrbata had a goal and an assist, and James Vandermeer also scored for the Coyotes.

Minnesota's Antti Miettinen tied it 2-2 with 4:58 to play, but Phoenix countered just 19 seconds later, with Upshall blasting in a rebound.

Andrew Brunette added a goal for the Wild.

In other NHL games it was, Florida 6, Buffalo 2; Dallas 3, Detroit 1; Phoenix 3, Minnesota 2; Edmonton 6, Colorado 4; and Philadelphia 3, Los Angeles 2.

Promoter Bob Arum wants Pacquiao-Mayweather fight

DAVE SKRETTA,
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Top Rank promoter Bob Arum is ready to begin negotiations for a megafight between Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Arum, Pacquiao's promoter, said on Thursday his Filipino star was willing to fight at 147 pounds (67 kilograms).

Arum was waiting to hear from Golden Boy Promotions chief Richard Schaefer, who was acting as an intermediary between Top Rank and Mayweather Promotions, two companies with an acrimonious relationship. Schaefer has assisted Mayweather's team on his most recent fights.

"I have to have discussions with our side, and when the time is right, I will be talking to Bob," Schaefer told The Associated Press. "That will probably take place face to face, and I intend that to happen very shortly."

Mayweather's adviser, Leonard Ellerbe, left no doubt that Mayweather was ready to get in the ring with the man who many believe replaced him atop the best pound-for-pound list.

"Floyd has made it perfectly clear to Team Mayweather and the rest of the world that he wants to give the fans what they want, and that's Mayweather versus Pacquiao," Ellerbe said.

It would be the biggest event in the sport since the days of Sugar Ray Leonard and Tommy Hearns, when marquee fights were held under the stars in the outdoor arena at Caesar's Palace.

Perhaps it's fitting that Las Vegas officials and casino magnate Steve Wynn have already contacted Arum about staging Pacquiao-Mayweather on the Strip. One possibility would be to build a temporary, 30,000-seat outdoor arena on a vacant lot at the old Frontier, where there would be room for corporate hospitality tents and a Super Bowl-like atmosphere.

Another possibility is the Dallas Cowboys' new stadium. Team owner Jerry Jones has expressed interest

in holding major events at his \$1.2 billion palace.

New York Yankees chief operating officer Lonn Trost has said he'd like to see a fight at the new Yankee Stadium, across the street from the building where many of the sports' greatest battles were waged. The problem is that New York would tax a significant percentage of the revenue, especially for a fight that could generate up to \$80 million in purses.

The notion that so many venues are vying for a fight that has yet to be made demonstrates how much attention the sport is receiving. Mayweather is coming off a victory over Juan Manuel Marquez that sold more than 1 million pay-per-views, and Pacquiao's stoppage of welterweight champion Miguel Cotto on Saturday is expected to surpass 1.2 million.

"It's not so much that I give a damn whether this fight happens — I don't — and for me it's not the greatest experience doing a promotion with Floyd Mayweather," Arum said. "But not to do this fight would slow down the momentum of boxing."

Mainstream sponsors like Pepsi and Subway have shown interest in Pacquiao-Mayweather, one more sign the sport is returning to the popularity level in the United States that it enjoyed in the early 1980s.



Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, center, holds his championship belt as he stands with promoter Bob Arum, left, and trainer Freddie Roach after winning his WBO welterweight boxing title fight against Miguel Cotto, of Puerto Rico, Saturday, Nov. 14, 2009 in Las Vegas. Pacquiao won by TKO in the 12th round.

Associated Press

Pacquiao recently made the cover of Time magazine in Asia and is easily the most widely recognized figure in the Philippines, while Mayweather has a magnetic personality that has been showcased everywhere from the WWE to commercials with Bill Kurtis for AT&T. One of the two has won Ring Magazine's Fighter of the Year for the past three years. "It has to happen. The stars are aligned and both fighters want it," said HBO Sports president Ross Greenburg. "If it doesn't,

it would be devastating to the sport."

Mayweather issued a statement on Monday in which he said, "If Manny Pacquiao wants to fight me, all he has to do is step up to the plate and say it himself."

"The world is much more intrigued by the thought of someone fighting me who can beat me," Mayweather added. "Manny Pacquiao's people have done a good job of creating an image of him to be this unbelievable fighter and now the so-called guy to

beat me."

Already, the bluster has begun.

Arum promised that "my guy will make (Mayweather) fight, and once he fights, my guy will knock him out," while Ellerbe made it perfectly clear how he sees the fight shaking out.

"At the end of the day, we already know that Floyd is the best fighter in all of boxing, and if we're able to make a deal, he'll just be proving it to the world," Ellerbe said. "Nothing has changed. Pacquiao will be no different."

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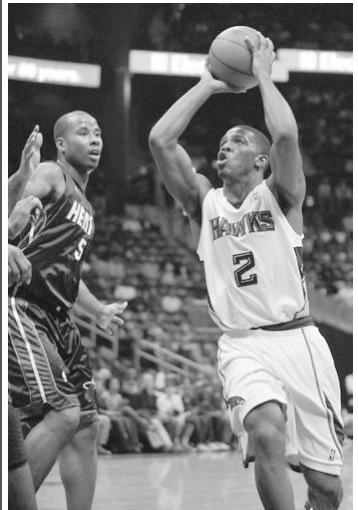
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NBA Roundup

Hawks go atop NBA, beat Heat



NBA standings with a 105-90 win over the Miami Heat on Wednesday.

Joe Johnson made it two straight 30-point games, and Josh Smith dominated during a decisive first-half run as Atlanta won its sixth in a row. Johnson scored 30 points on the heels of a 35-point effort against Portland on Monday. Smith was all over the stat sheet: 16 points, 14 rebounds, seven assists, two blocks and two steals.

Michael Beasley led the Heat with 21 points.

Magic 108, Thunder 94

In Orlando, Florida, Rashard Lewis fell one assist shy of his first triple-double, finishing with 17 points and 10 rebounds in Orlando's victory over Oklahoma City.

Lewis, who was suspended for the first 10 games of the season for violating the league's drug policy, didn't play in the fourth quarter, which the Magic started with an 88-58 lead.

Vince Carter shot 18 points for the Magic.

Trail Blazers 87, Pistons 81

In Portland, Oregon, Brandon Roy and LaMarcus Aldridge each scored 20 points, and Portland held off tired but tenacious Detroit.

Rodney Stuckey had 21 points for the Pistons, who were playing the second of a back-to-back.

Mavericks 99, Spurs 94

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 11 of his season-high 41 points in overtime as Dallas held on to beat San Antonio.

Drew Gooden added 17 points and 11 rebounds before fouling out late in the fourth quarter to help Dallas extend its winning streak to four games.

Tim Duncan had 22 points and 14 rebounds for the Spurs, winless in four road games this season. San Antonio was without starting guard Tony Parker (ankle) and lost guard Manu Ginobili (groin) in the first quarter.

Celtics 109, Warriors 95

In Boston, Rajon Rondo scored 12 of his season high-tying 18 points in the third quarter as Boston downed Golden State.

Paul Pierce, who missed a day of practice with a sore left knee, scored 19 on 7-of-12 shooting. Pierce made a key 3-pointer after the Celtics went on a 12-0 third-quarter run to take control.

Corey Maggette scored 23 points for the Warriors, who had just nine players in uniform and played eight.

Wizards 108, Cavaliers 91

In Washington, Antawn Jamison delivered 31 points and 10 rebounds in his season debut as Washington beat Cleveland to end a six-game losing streak.

Wearing a protective sleeve over the right shoulder that sidelined him since October, Jamison looked good from the start, scoring 13 points in the first quarter.

Cleveland's LeBron James finished with 34 points and nine assists, but he scored only six points in the fourth quarter while shooting 3 for 7. The Cavaliers, without the injured Shaquille O'Neal and Anderson Varejao, had their five-game winning streak snapped.

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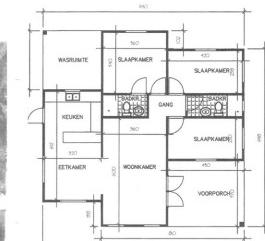
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Warda Polis	582-4000
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San Nicolas

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SAN NICOLAAS
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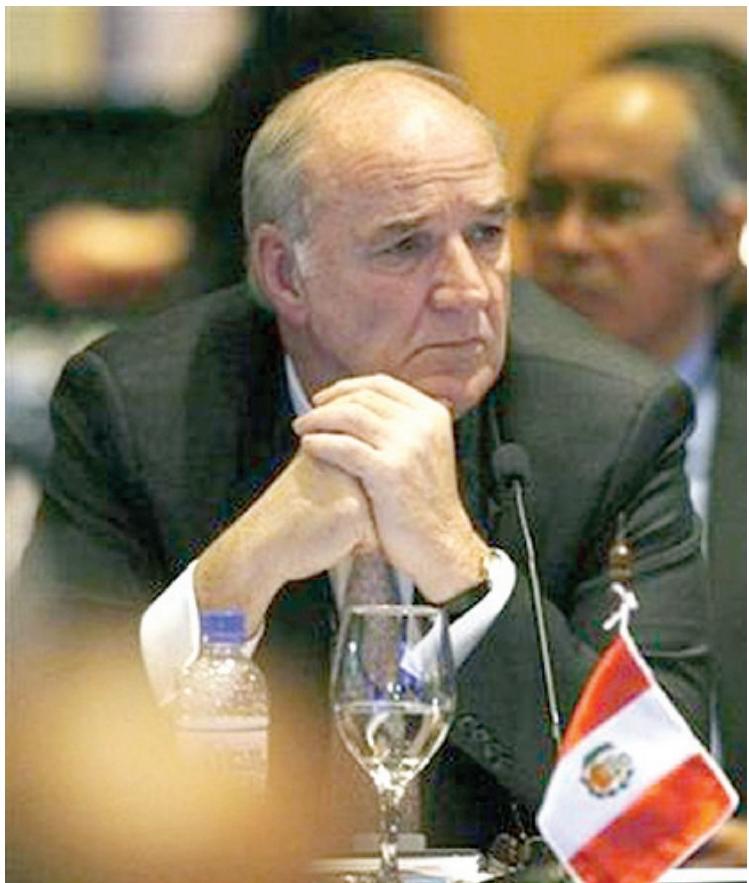
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Perú advierte revisará relación con Chile por caso de espionaje



Perú advirtió el jueves que revisará las relaciones con Chile si Santiago no investiga las pruebas de un supuesto caso de espionaje militar enviadas por Lima, lo que tensaría aún más los lazos entre los vecinos e importantes socios comerciales. La denuncia del presunto espionaje militar se produce en momentos en que Perú y Chile -cuya relación sufre de altibajos desde que se enfrentaron en una guerra a fines del siglo XIX- mantienen un litigio en una corte internacional por un diferendo en sus límites marítimos. REUTERS/Guillermo Granja/Archivo

Tres colombianos muertos en zona de frontera con Venezuela

BOGOTÁ (AP) - Las autoridades confirmaron el jueves la muerte de tres colombianos, baleados por desconocidos en la orilla colombiana del río Arauca, en la frontera con Venezuela. "La gente escuchó los tiros y avisó a la policía que encontró a un hombre y dos mujeres" muertos en la orilla colombiana del río, indicó Henry Colmenares, secretario de gobierno de la alcaldía de Arauca, a unos 460 kilómetros al noreste de Bogotá.

El suceso ocurrió cerca de las 19:00 horas del miércoles (00:00 GMT) y las autoridades manejan dos hipótesis, que las tres personas habían cruzado al lado venezolano a realizar un pago extorsivo o para evitar ser secuestrados, o que por ser nuevos en la región eran vistos como sospechosos, agregó el funcionario en diálogo telefónico con AP. De acuerdo con el secretario de gobierno, las dos mujeres --identificadas como Hermencia Gutiérrez, de 29 años, y Vilvaes Sarmiento, de 19-- trabajaban para una firma de seguridad privada en Yopal, en el departamento de Casanare, vecino al Arauca; y estaban en la zona estudiando abrir una sucursal. El hombre, identificado como Giovani Villamil, de 38 años, trabajaba como escolta y las acompañaba, indicó.

LIMA (Reuters) - Perú advirtió el jueves que revisará las relaciones con Chile si Santiago no investiga las pruebas de un supuesto caso de espionaje militar enviadas por Lima, lo que tensaría aún más los lazos entre los vecinos e importantes socios comerciales.

Click here to find out more! La denuncia del presunto espionaje militar se produce en momentos en que Perú y Chile -cuya relación sufre de altibajos desde que se enfrentaron en una guerra a fines del siglo XIX- mantienen un litigio en una corte internacional por un diferendo en sus límites marítimos.

"Creo que ya está dicho todo. Si Chile persiste en no hacer una investigación y deslindar

responsabilidades y sancionar a los que sean culpables de ese delito, pues tendremos que hacer una revisión de todo el proceso de las relaciones", advirtió el canciller José Antonio García Belaunde a la radio local CPN. El ministro no brindó más detalles.

El miércoles, Lima entregó a Santiago una nota de protesta en rechazo a "las acciones de espionaje" a favor de Chile, en la última escalada del caso que estalló cuando el Gobierno peruano confirmó que un agente de la Fuerza Aérea (FAP) fue detenido y acusado de enviar información militar reservada a Chile.

Junto a la nota, Perú también la documentación y "pruebas" del supuesto espionaje. Santiago

ha negado las acusaciones y pedido a Lima prudencia sobre la situación que ha llevado a las relaciones entre los dos países sudamericanos a su nivel más bajo en años.

Tras la denuncia, los vecinos han tenido cruces verbales en los que el presidente peruano, Alan García, catalogó el espionaje de "repulsivo" y propio de una "republiqueta" y su par chilena, Michelle Bachelet, rechazó las expresiones calificándolas de "ofensivas y altisonantes".

Analistas afirman que el caso afectará por un tiempo la relación política entre Lima y Santiago, pero no mellará el lazo económico que ha crecido fuertemente en los últimos años.

Presidente Uribe de Colombia esquiva responder a presidente Chávez

Chávez tildó a canciller colombiano de "cínico" y un "desgraciado"

BOGOTÁ (AP) - El presidente Alvaro Uribe esquivó el jueves referirse a la última andanada de críticas de su par de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, y aseguró que Bogotá mantendrá frente a Caracas su actitud de "prudencia".

"La consigna es: firmeza frente al terrorismo y prudencia para no entrar en refriegas de insultos con gobiernos extranjeros", dijo Uribe en una entrevista con la cadena radial Colmundo.

"Prudencia para no incurrir en caminos, en refriegas, de insultos con presidentes extranjeros", agregó Uribe al ser consultado por la radio sobre declaraciones formuladas por Chávez el miércoles.

Colombia, agregó Uribe, desea "toda la libertad para que colombianos y venezolanos puedan tener toda la dinámica en su vida de frontera... Siempre mantenemos la disposición de colaborar con los gobiernos" para trabajar por la seguridad de las zonas limítrofes.

El mandatario colombiano, sin embargo,

se refirió a que Venezuela desde mediados de año no deja entrar productos como caña de azúcar y además cortó un suministro de gasolina a zonas colombianas fronterizas, lo que dijo, estimulaba el contrabando de ese producto.

Chávez indicó la víspera que el canciller de Colombia, Jaime Bermúdez, era un "cínico" y un "desgraciado" al quejarse porque la Unión de Naciones Suramericanas (Unasur) mantenía silencio frente a declaraciones del mandatario de Venezuela sobre un eventual choque armado con Colombia.

El presidente Uribe dijo en la jornada que su canciller no hizo otra cosa sino un reclamo "obvio" al organismo regional y descartó un eventual retiro de su país de Unasur.

Caracas ha mostrado su molestia por un acuerdo de cooperación militar firmado el 30 de octubre entre Bogotá y Washington. Chávez asegura que ese convenio representa una "amenaza" a la seguridad nacional de su país porque Estados Unidos busca "desestabilizar" a su gobierno, lo que Washington niega.

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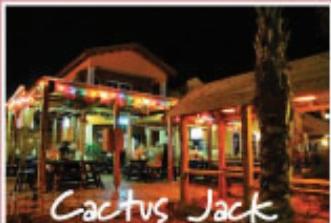


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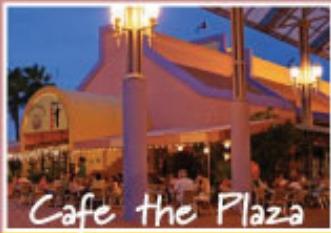
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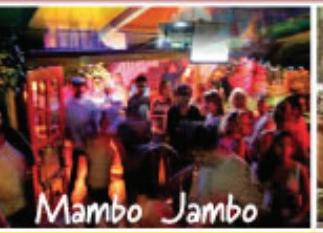
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